Congratulations to the Best of the Fest Award Winner: Barbara Blanks of Texas. Barbara is a fine poet, a member of MPS, and a sponsor as well.

Category #1 – Mississippi Poetry Society 2017 Award
1st Place: “Red, Hot and Blue Delta” Linda Treat
2nd Place: “Babysitting Blues” Michael Shelton
3rd Place: “Muddy Waters, Mojo Man” Jeanne S. Kelly
1st HM: “Days without Love” Russell H. Strauss
2nd HM: “Pouring Out His Soul” Ann Carolyn Cates
3rd HM: “Blues Heritage” Emory D. Jones

Category #2 – MPS Past Presidents' Award
1st Place: “Balm for Sorrow's Ache” Sandra H. Bounds
2nd Place: “My Living Room” Janice Canerdy
3rd Place: “Love Songs in the Park” Caroline Walton
1st HM: “Home of My Childhood” Joyce Shiver
2nd HM: “An Ode to Frost” Michael Shelton
3rd HM: “Grilled Cheese Sandwiches and Sassafras Tea” Dalene Stull

Category #3 – MPS North Branch Award
1st Place: “Muddy Waters – Blues With Heat” Judy Davies
2nd Place: “We're Not Just Known for Sweet Tea and Southern Charm” Mary Alice Higgs
3rd Place: “We Together” Michael Shelton
1st HM: “Hernando Desoto's Mississippi” Linda Treat
2nd HM: “Eudora” Linda Watson Owen
3rd HM: “Big Joe Williams” Sara Gipson

Category #4 – MPS Central Branch Award
1st Place: “Filled With Empty” Barbara Blanks
2nd Place: “The Blues Will Sing” Linda Watson Owen
3rd Place: “A Wounded Warrior Battles Holly Bushes” Russell H. Strauss
1st HM: “A Different Thanksgiving” Brenda Brown Finnegan
2nd HM: “Morning Miracle” Emory D. Jones
3rd HM: “In My Dreams” Mary Alice Higgs

Category #5 – MPS South Branch Award
1st Place: “I Sing of Mississippi” Linda Watson Owen
2nd Place: “Mississippi Memories” Emory D. Jones
3rd Place: “Why Celebrate?” Judy Davies
1st HM: “Visions of the 2017 MS Bicentennial Celebration” Ruth F. Richmond
2nd HM: “Mississippi's Bicentennial” Janice Canerdy
3rd HM: “From the Kings to the Coast” Michael Shelton

Category #6 – Hell, Fire and Brimstone Award
1st Place: “Hell” Brenda Brown Finnegan
2nd Place: “Approaching Jerusalem” Patricia Butkovich
3rd Place: “Troubled Mind Gloss” Jeanne S. Kelly
1st HM: “Heaven or Hell” Sara Gipson
2nd HM: “Mephistophilis” Emory D. Jones
3rd HM: “Hell” Janice Canerdy

Category #7 – Gulf Coast Authors Award
1st Place: “Adverbity” Linda Watson Owen
2nd Place: “Adverbial” Jerri Hardesty
3rd Place: “Adverbially Speaking” Barbara Blanks
1st HM: “Don't Forget the Adverbs” Janice Canerdy
2nd HM: “The Ayes Have It for Adverbs” Von S. Bourland
3rd HM: “Mad Libs” Mark Hudson

Category #8 – Henry Clay Anderson Memorial Award
1st Place: “Stepping Out with Neil Armstrong” Barbara Blanks
2nd Place: “Veteran” Becky Alexander
3rd Place: “Max's Job” Judy Davies
1st HM: “The Patriot” Emory D. Jones
2nd HM: “Tomboy” Jerri Hardesty

Category #9 – Grands Award
1st Place: “Birthday” Doris Jones
2nd Place: “Grandma Muses While Watching Young Women” Madelyn Eastlund
3rd Place: “Leaving it to someone else” Catherine Moran
1st HM: “Grandpa's Wisdom” Judy Davies
2nd HM: “Afternoon Scholar” Jeanne S. Kelly
3rd HM: “Grandchildren” Jerri Hardesty

Category #10 – Ekphrastic Poems Award
1st Place: “A Letter to Vincent” Von S. Bourland
2nd Place: “A Poet's Brush” Jeanne S. Kelly
3rd Place: “Cape Cod Evening” Madelyn Eastlund
1st HM: “Starry Night 4” Jerri Hardesty
2nd HM: “Lions and Tigers? Oh my!” Russell H. Strauss
3rd HM: “A Sunday Afternoon” Philip L. Levin

Category #11 – Gertrude Smith Memorial Award
1st Place: “The Yeagers” Barbara Blanks
2nd Place: “Anniversary Gift” Doris Jones
3rd Place: “Forgotten with the Coffee Can” Sara Gipson
1st HM: “Never say 'Never Again'” Philip L. Levin
2nd HM: “A Part of You” Dalene Stull
3rd HM: “Letter from Your Pack Horse Lover” Russell H. Strauss

Category #12 – Ruth Richmond Award
1st Place: “Open the Gate” Emory D. Jones
2nd Place: “Hinges; Many Forms- Many Types” Grace Fletcher
3rd Place: “Thought Upon Thought” Linda Watson Owen
1st HM: “The keeper of the door” Catherine Moran
2nd HM: “Teamwork” Lori Anne Goetz
3rd HM: "Rusty Hinges" Sara Gipson

Category #13 – Ogden Nash Award

1st Place: "Washday Lament" Russell H. Strauss
2nd Place: "A Lesson Learned" Joyce Shiver
3rd Place: "If Ebola Dud'N' Gitcha" Tommy Little
1st HM: "Diet Disaster" Dalene Stull
2nd HM: "Dissertation on Peanut Butter" Judy Davies
3rd HM: "You Can't Unsay It!" Jeanne S. Kelly

Category #14 – Barron and Dessie Caulfield Memorial Award

1st Place tie: "Nature's Ballet" Sandra H. Bounds
1st Place tie: "Mangrove Haven" Von S. Bourland
2nd Place: "When the Song Seems Sweetest" Russell H. Strauss
3rd Place: "Hear the Echo of the Christmas Bells" Edna Earle Crews
1st HM: "We'll Never Know" Joyce Shiver
2nd HM: "Will and Testament" Emory D. Jones
3rd HM: "The Tears Come Quickly" John W. Crawford

Category #15 – Pantoum Challenge Award

1st Place: "The Rising Son" Von S. Bourland
2nd Place: "Pullet Surprise" Barbra Blanks
3rd Place: "Forte of the Soul" Linda Watson Owen
1st HM: "Bonds of Love" Judy Davies
2nd HM: "Mother Nature" Linda C. Zebert

Category #16 – Narrative Award

1st Place: "Song of the Deep" Linda Watson Owen
2nd Place: "It's Show Time" Philip L. Levin
3rd Place: "She Devil" Jerri Hardesty
1st HM: "To a Time Remembered" Judy Davies
2nd HM: "Odysseus' Tale" John W. Crawford
3rd HM: "Faulkner, the Arkansas Traveler" Sara Gipson

Category #17 – Deadly Sin Pantoum

1st Place: "Seeds of Greed" Sara Gipson
2nd Place: "The Pantoum You Would Be Too Lazy to Write" Russell H. Strauss
3rd Place: "God Bless Us, Every One!" Linda Watson Owen
1st HM: "Fall from Grace" Elaine McDermott
2nd HM: "Election 2016" Judy Davies
3rd HM: "All Is Vanity" Mary Alice Higgs

Category #18 – Miriam S. Strauss Memorial Award

1st Place: "Spectral" Doris Jones
2nd Place: "It's Been Almost a Year" Barbara Blanks
3rd Place: "Hope" Sara Gipson
1st HM: "Objections" Lori Anne Goetz
2nd HM: "Heroic Effort" Von S. Bourland
Category #19 – Norman Harvey Memorial Award
1st Place: “Murder in Autumn Forest” Sara Gipson
2nd Place: “Sonnet of Murder Creek” Brenda Brown Finnegan
3rd Place: “Tea Party” Russell H. Strauss
1st HM: “A Fool from Her Honey Is Soon Departed” Barbara Blanks
2nd HM: “Random Victim” Dalene Stull

Category #20 – A. Estelle Harrington Memorial Award
1st Place: “Toward a Claim of Joy” Ruth F. Richmond
2nd Place: “An Old Man's Role Reversal Lament” Russell H. Strauss
3rd Place: “Looking Back” Joyce Shiver
1st HM: “Senior Options” Judy Davies
2nd HM: “Writing into old age” Catherine Moran
3rd HM: “Geezerhood Is My New Neighborhood” Barbara Blanks

Category #21 – Shelton Broken Leg Award
1st Place: “Remnants From the Past” Ann Carolyn Cates
2nd Place: “The Aged Strive” Janice Canerdy
3rd Place: “Cheers to America” Barbara Blanks
1st HM: “Gift” Dalene Stull
2nd HM: “A New Home” Philip L. Levin
3rd HM: “Requiem for an Obsolete Computer” Judy Davies

Category #22 – Eureka Award
1st Place: “The Sea” Michael Shelton
2nd Place: “Ode to Love” Douglas Taylor
3rd Place: “A talk with a star” Catherine Moran
1st HM: “Blessings” Brenda Brown Finnegan
2nd HM: “What kind of Crab are you?” Suzanne Nelson
3rd HM: “So Long Ago” Tommy Little

Category #23 – Winklebleck Choice Award
1st Place: “So Easily When It Rains...” Linda Watson Owen
2nd Place: “First Rejection Notice” Russell H. Strauss
3rd Place: “Caterwauling Diva” Von S. Bourland
1st HM: “We Rule” Janice Canerdy
2nd HM: “It Had to Be ...” John W. Crawford
3rd HM: “Tasteless Words” Patricia Butkovich

Category #24 – Jessica Manzo Award
1st Place: “A Day in the Life” Janice Canerdy
2nd Place: “My Mom” Jerri Hardesty
3rd Place: “The Night Shift” Philip L. Levin
1st HM: “Assembly Required” Barbara Blanks

Category #25 – Fun Night Awards
1st Place Favorite Movie: “The Rose Tattoo” Brenda Brown Finnegan
HM Favorite Movie: “Pirates of the Competition” Linda Watson Owen
HM Favorite Movie: “Nightmare on the Cape” Michael Shelton
1st Place Favorite Sport: “Casey Returns to the Bat” Russell H. Strauss
1st Place Favorite Holiday: “Fat Tuesday” Ann Carolyn Cates

2017 MPS SPRING POETRY CONTEST STUDENT WINNER'S LIST

Level #1 – Grades 1 - 3
1st Place: “Raegan” Eliza Durdin
2nd Place: “Dogs” Corey Burns
3rd Place: “Dinosaurs” Jackson Clark
2nd HM: “I never seen a Dolphin” Kyra Marshall
3rd HM: “The Swings” Amira Harper

Level #2 – Grades 4 and 5
1st Place: “The Cat” Cate McCrory
2nd Place: “The Months” Sarah Neely Grantham
3rd Place: “Life” Joshua Braman
1st HM: “How Could They?” Anna Lee Sceroler
2nd HM: “Horses” Malee Davidson
3rd HM: “Trees” Josh Allen

Level #3 – Grades 6 - 8
1st Place: “Teens” Ava Mullen
2nd Place: “Athena” Ava Wages
3rd Place: “Trees” Will Grogan
1st HM: “Snow” Remy Jones
2nd HM: “Dance” Ella Hall Bounds
3rd HM: “Summer” Whit Anderson

Level #4 – Grades 9 – 12
1st Place: “In the Light” Haley Sliker
2nd Place: “The Dandelion” Jordan Walker
3rd Place: “Daydream” Kendall Willeford
1st HM: “Naughty or Nice” Mary Catherine Kalil

Level #5 – College Undergraduates
1st Place: “Midnight Laundry” Alexandria B. Crout
2nd Place: “Peculiar Occurrence” Victoria Nulph
3rd Place: “Thirty-Eight” Amber Hargett
1st HM: “Christmas Eve Constantly” Sarah Ann Michael
2nd HM: “muse: a collection of dedication poems . poem #4 (neuf.9.nine)” Montavius Jones