

MPS 2017 SPRING FESTIVAL CONTEST

BEST OF THE FEST AWARD \$250!—Contributed by Marilyn Denington in memory of Michael R. (Mick) Denington. First place winners in ALL Festival categories will be collected and sent to an outside judge who will decide which one of the winning poems in this year's Festival deserves this special award. The decision of the judge is final. Marilyn will present the prize to the winner at the Awards Banquet on the Saturday night of the Festival.

1. **MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY 2017 AWARD** (sponsored by MPS) Open to MPS members only.
Form—Open
Subject—Your favorite blues artist
Line limit—100
Prizes—1st--\$100; 2nd--\$50; 3rd--\$25; honorable mentions as merited.
2. **PAST PRESIDENTS' AWARD** (sponsored by Judy Davies and Brenda Finnegan)
Form—Petrarchan Sonnet
Subject—Open
Line limit—14
Prizes—1st--\$30; 2nd--\$20; 3rd--\$10; honorable mentions as merited.
3. **MPS NORTH BRANCH AWARD** (sponsored by North Branch, MPS)
Form—Open
Subject--Notable Mississippians
Line limit—40
Prizes—1st--\$30; 2nd--\$20; 3rd--\$10; honorable mentions as merited.
4. **MPS CENTRAL BRANCH PAT JORDAN MEMORIAL AWARD** (sponsored by Central Branch, MPS)
Form—Traditional Pantoum
Subject—Open
Line limit—24
Prizes—1st--\$50; 2nd--\$40; 3rd--\$10; no honorable mentions.
5. **MPS SOUTH BRANCH AWARD** (sponsored by South Branch, MPS)
Form—Open
Subject—Mississippi Bicentennial—Celebrating 200 years
Line limit—40
Prizes—1st--\$25; 2nd--\$15; 3rd--\$10; 3 honorable mentions.
6. **HELL, FIRE, AND BRIMSTONE AWARD!** (sponsored by Grace Fletcher)
Form—Open
Subject—Hell
Line limit—40
Prizes—1st--\$15; 2nd--\$10; 3rd--\$5; 3 honorable mentions.
7. **GULF COAST AUTHORS AWARD** (sponsored by Gulf Coast Authors)
Form—Rhymed Verse
Subject—Adverbs in Poetry
Line limit—40
Prizes—1st--\$50; 2nd--\$30; 3rd--\$20; honorable mentions as merited.
8. **HENRY CLAY ANDERSON MEMORIAL AWARD** (sponsored by Sarah Hull Gurley)
Form—Open
Subject—Courage
Line limit—30

- Prizes—1st--\$50; 2nd--\$20; 3rd--\$10; 2 honorable mentions.
9. **GRANDS AWARD** (sponsored by Emory D. Jones)
Form--Open
Subject--Grandchildren, grandmothers, grandfathers
Line limit—40
Prizes—1st--\$15; 2nd--\$10; 3rd--\$5; honorable mentions as merited.
10. **EKPHRASTIC POEMS AWARD** (sponsored by Emory D. Jones)
Form—Open
Subject—Poems based upon another work of art
Line limit—40
Prizes—1st--\$15; 2nd--\$10; 3rd--\$5; honorable mentions as merited.
11. **GERTRUDE SMITH MEMORIAL AWARD** (sponsored by Jeanne Kelly)
Form—Free Verse
Subject—Old Love
Line limit—40
Prizes—1st--\$25; 2nd--\$15; 3rd--\$10; 3 honorable mentions.
12. **RUTH RICHMOND AWARD** (sponsored by Ruth Richmond)
Form--Open
Subject—Hinges
Prizes—1st--\$25; 2nd--\$15; 3rd--\$10; 3 honorable mentions.
13. **OGDEN NASH AWARD** (sponsored by Douglas Taylor)
Form—Any form from limerick to ballad
Subject—Light verse; humorous poems
Line limit—40
Prizes—1st--\$40; 2nd--\$30; 3rd--\$30; honorable mentions as merited.
14. **BARRON AND DESSIE CAULFIELD MEMORIAL AWARD** (sponsored by Dorothy Wiman)
Form—Villanelle
Subject—Open
Line limit—19
Prizes—1st--\$30; 2nd--\$25; 3rd--\$20; 3 honorable mentions.
15. **PANTOUM CHALLENGE AWARD** (sponsored by Florence Bruce)
Form—Pantoum (standard or classical pattern)
Subject—Open
Line limit—40
Prizes—1st--\$15; 2nd--\$10; 3rd--\$5; 3 honorable mentions.
16. **NARRATIVE AWARD** (sponsored by Janice Canerdy)
Form—Open
Subject—Open
Line limit—40
Prizes—1st--\$25; 2nd--\$15; 3rd--\$10; honorable mentions as merited.
17. **DEADLY SIN PANTOUM** (sponsored by Caroline Z. Sposto)
Form—Pantoum
Subject—One of the seven deadly sins—Lust, Gluttony, Greed, Laziness, Wrath, Envy, or Vanity
Line limit—40
Prizes—1st--\$20; 2nd--\$10; 3rd--\$5; 1 honorable mention.
18. **MIRIAM S. STRAUSS MEMORIAL AWARD** (sponsored by Russell H. Strauss)
Form—Open
Subject—It happened since last April

- Line limit—10-30
Prizes—1st--\$15; 2nd--\$10; 3rd--\$5; 3 honorable mentions.
19. **NORMAN HARVEY MEMORIAL AWARD** (sponsored by James O'Laughlin)
Form—Shakespearean Sonnet
Subject—Murder/Mayhem
Line limit—14
Prizes—1st--\$25; 2nd--\$15; 3rd--\$10; 2 honorable mentions
20. **A. ESTELLE HARRINGTON MEMORIAL AWARD** (sponsored by James O'Laughlin)
Form—Petrarchan Sonnet
Subject—Old Age
Line limit—14
Prizes—1st--\$25; 2nd--\$15; 3rd--\$10
21. **SHELTON BROKEN LEG AWARD** (sponsored by Michael Shelton)
Form—Separate couplets (two lines with same end rhyme followed by a space and two more couplets etc.)
Subject—Open
Line Limit—40
Prizes—1st--\$20; 2nd--\$15; 3rd--\$10; honorable mentions as merited.
22. **EUREKA AWARD** (sponsored by Jonadab Ezerie)
Form—Rhymed Verse
Subject—Open
Line Limit—40
Prizes—1st--\$40; 2nd--\$20; 3rd--\$10; 1 honorable mention.
23. **WINKLEBLECK CHOICE AWARD** (sponsored by Barbara Blanks)
Form—Open
Subject—Any serious or humorous topic
Line Limit—40
Prizes—1st--\$35; 2nd--\$20; 3rd--\$10; honorable mentions as merited.
24. **JESSICA MANZO AWARD** (To honor her sisters, Melisa and Olivia)
Form—Open
Subject—Single Working Mothers
Line Limit—40
Prizes—1st--\$25; 2nd--\$15; 3rd--\$10; honorable mentions as merited.
25. **FESTIVAL FUN NIGHT AWARD** (sponsored by JoAn Robbins Howerton)
Instructions—Write a humorous poem about one of these three subjects: Favorite movie (Come dressed as a character) \$15 prize. Favorite sport or team (come dressed as a fan or player) \$15 prize. Favorite holiday (come dressed up to celebrate that event) \$15 prize. Must be present and dressed up to win on Fun Night.

MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY SPRING CONTEST RULES

ELIGIBILITY: All categories are open to all poets except where otherwise indicated.

1. Poems must be the original work of the entrant, and must not have won or placed in any poetry contest prior to the awarding of the MPS Spring 2017 awards, other than honorable mention.
2. Poems entered in this contest must not have been published anywhere before.
3. A poet may not enter the same poem in more than one category, and may not enter more than one poem in a single category.

4. By submitting poems in this competition, poets are confirming that the same has not been a winner in any other contest and has not been published anywhere. Poets acknowledge that they may be barred from entering future contests if found to be in violation of this rule.

FORM:

5. Entries must be typed single-spaced in black ink on regular 8.5" x 11" computer-generated paper or typewritten and submitted in an 8 ½ x 11 or 9 x 12 mailing envelope. Poems must be formatted on the page so that all verses can be read by the judges without difficulty.

6. All entries must meet the form requirement and line limit specified by the category entered.

7. Submit two (2) copies of each poem per category with the following distinction:

a. The first must show the poet's name, complete U. S. mailing address, email address (if available), and "MPS Member" or "Non-Member" in the upper right corner. The category number and category title should appear in the upper left corner. This must be the typed original and NOT a photocopy of any kind.

b. The second, which must be a copy of the original, must show the number and title of the category in the upper left corner. No personal identification can be shown on this copy.

8. If a poem runs more than one page, staple the pages together. PLEASE DO NOT USE PAPERCLIPS.

9. Failure to follow these rules will result in disqualification.

ENTRY FEES: The entry fee is \$1 per poem for MPS members, with a maximum fee of \$10 to enter all categories. The entry fee for non-members is \$2 per poem, with a maximum fee of \$20. Fees must be included with the entries. Checks should be made payable to Mississippi Poetry Society, Inc. A returned check automatically nullifies any award or honorable mention and a fee of \$20.00 is required before the entrant can enter an MPS contest again.

DEADLINE: All entries must be received no later than **March 10, 2017**. No entries received after this date will be accepted. After the awards festival, a copy of the winners list will be available at www.misspoetry.net. Prize checks should be cashed within 60 days or the prize will be forfeited. The winning poems will be published in our yearly anthology, *The Mississippi Poetry Journal*.

MAIL ENTRIES AND FEES TO:

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