

Mississippi Poetry Society 2024 Contest Winners



Best of Fest

Mary Jane Andol
Fifty Words for Lightning

Category 1 – Mississippi Poetry Society Award – Mississippi Mysteries Sponsored by the Mississippi Poetry Society. Judged by Tommy Little

1 st Place	Unanswered Questions in Mississippi	Janice Canerdy
2 nd Place	What Happened to Annie Laurie?	Patsy Twiner
3 rd Place	Up in the Sky	Philip Levin
HM #1	A Tale That's Worth Telling	Pamela Hatch
HM #2	The Chunky River Bridge	Tanya Whitney
HM #3	How Come?	Mary Beth Magee

Category 2 – North Branch Award – English Sonnet Sponsored by North Branch. Judged by Janice Canerdy.

1 st Place	Harold Lloyd Jenkins Born Anew	John Crawford
2 nd Place	The Hourglass Is Always Running Out	Jerri Hardesty
3 rd Place	Living with Change	Mike Wahl
HM #1	After the Fall	Ann Carolyn Cates
HM #2	Delighting in a new love	Catherine Moran
HM# 3	A Summer Night	Daniel Pickett

Category 3 – Central Branch Award - Along the Natchez Trace Sponsored by Central Branch. Judged by Russell Strauss

1 st Place	Gentlemen of the Trace	Doris Jones
2 nd Place	Along the Natchez Trace	Patsy Twiner
3 rd Place	Natchez Trace Stands	Janice Canerdy
1 st HM	Where Witches Danced	Daniel Pickett
2 nd HM	Rare Earth	Jerri Hardesty
3 rd HM	Cathedral	Mary Beth Magee

Category 4 – South Branch Award – Acrostic Sponsored by South Branch. Judged by Patty Butkovich

1st Place	Learning about Love	Catherine Moran
2nd Place	Memories, Not Just Medals	Mary Alice Higgs
3rd Place	Widow	Brenda Finnegan
1st HM	Spreading Happiness	Janice Canerdy
2nd HM	Computers	Doris Jones
3rd HM	My Angel	Philip Levin

**Category 5 – West Branch Award – Mississippi River
Sponsored by West Branch. Judged by Mark LaFrancis**

1st Place Grand Old Gal
2nd Place Contemplating the Mississippi River
3rd Place America's River
HM #1 Echoes Along the Mississippi
HM #2 River's Call
HM 3 Mississippi Memories

Mary Beth Magee
Jerri Hardesty
Tanya Whitney
Daniel Pickett
Linda Owen
Emory Jones

**Category 6 – Biblically Inspired Award – Second Chances
Sponsored and judged by Randy and Linda Owen.**

1st Place Second Chances
2nd Place Sundays in Cleveland, MS
3rd Place East of the City
HM #1 Until There Aren't
HM #2 Pa's Second Chance
HM #3 red and blue in the review
HM #4 Astronomical Unraveling
HM #5 Knowledge

Patsy Twiner
Cameron Thomas
Jonathan Bennett
Michelle McMillan-Holifield
Michael Shoemaker
Terry Jude Miller
Alecia Woodford
Mary Beth Magee

**Category 7 - The Shelton Couplet Award
Sponsored by Michael Shelton. Judged by Catherine Moran.**

1st Place Enkindled Choreographies
2nd Place Creation's Joys
3rd Place Metamorphosis
1st HM Beyond the Stone Wall
2nd HM Start Spreading the News
3rd HM Woodland, Flaring

Daniel Moreschi
Patsy Twiner
Daniel Pickett
Ann Carolyn Cates
William "Bill" Hill
Alecia Woodford

**Category 8 - The Doctor's Dream Award
Sponsored and judged by Philip Levin.**

1st Place My Husband's Sister
2nd Place Angelica
3rd Place Missing Mascara
HM #1 The Dentist
HM #2 Hands of a Healer
HM #3 Unlicensed

Brenda Finnegan
Jeanne Kelly
Terry Jude Miller
Donna Geise
Mark LaFrancis
Mike Wahl

**Category 9 – Ekphrastic
Sponsored and judged by Dr. Emory Jones.**

1st Place Musing Finds a Memory
2nd Place Midwinter
3rd Place The Southern Railroad
HM #1 A Heron and a Hitchhiker
HM #2 Craggy Cross
HM #3 The End of Summer
HM #4 Colors of the Sky

Linda Owen
Donna Geise
Pete Massey
Terry Jude Miller
Mark LaFrancis
Daniel Pickett
Ann Carolyn Cates

Category 10 – Mississippi Writers
Sponsored and judged by Dr. Emory Jones.

1st Place Remembering Eudora Alice Welty
2nd Place A Foote in the Door
3rd Place Richard Wright
HM #1 Blanche DuBois
HM #2 Boys and Dogs and James H. Street
HM #3 Mississippi's Borden Deal (1922-1985)

Brenda Finnegan
Philip Levin
Mark LaFrancis
Cameron Thomas
Mary Beth Magee
Janice Canerdy

Category 11 – Purrfectly Pleasing Pets
Sponsored and judged by Patty Butkovich.

1st Place Cat Conspiracy
2nd Place Percy and Ed
3rd Place Emerald Orbs
HM #1 Akerlof is Back
HM #2 Missing Mama Kitty
HM #3 Kosmo

Lorraine Jefferey
Carey Myers
Mary Beth Magee
Randy Schwartz
Janice Canerdy
Jeanne Kelly

Category 12 – Narrative Poem
Sponsored and judged by Janice Canerdy.

1st Place Mouse and Trap
2nd Place The Ferris Wheel
3rd Place Cattle Town
HM #1 A Quart Jar of Molasses
HM #2 Outsmarted!
HM #3 Wake Me From This Nightmare

Patsy Twiner
Carey Myers
Sarah Gipson
Michael Shoemaker
Jeanne Kelly
Jerri Hardesty

Category 13 – All Things New
Sponsored and judged by Patsy Twiner.

1st Place Nature's Song at Dawn
2nd Place Tinder Transformed
3rd Place The Way to a New Beginning
HM #1 Rahab Reborn
HM #2 Goodbyes and Hellos
HM #3 Starting Over

Sarah Gipson
Doris Jones
Catherine Moran
Mary Beth Magee
Mark LaFrancis
Lorraine Jefferey

Category 14 - The Finnanegans Award
Sponsored and judged by Mary Beth Magee.

First Place Pretty in Pink
Second Place Rain
Third Place If Only It Were That Simple
HM #1 Playing with Pa
HM #2 Hyperbolists Beware

Mark LaFrancis
Brenda Finnegan
Pamela Hatch
Linda Owen
Janice Freytag

**For Category 15 - The Dan Olive Memorial Award
Sponsored by Trudy Olive. Judged by Mary Beth Magee.**

1 st Place	A Day with the Grandkids	Ann Carolyn Cates
2 nd Place	Dirt Boy	Terry Jude Miller
3 rd Place	Let's Ask Granddad	Mike Wahl
HM	Out of the Mouths of Babes	John Crawford

**Category 16: All That Could Have Been Award
Sponsored and judged by Daniel Pickett.**

1st Place	Dealing with the Broken	Catherine Moran
2nd Place	Cursed Dirt	Linda Owen
3rd Place	Barefoot	Alecia Woodford
HM #1:	Losses Restored	Patsy Twiner
HM #2:	Fairy Tale Love	Cameron Thomas
HM #3:	Beyond Space: To Rick Searfoss	Lorraine Jeffery

**Category 17 – Far Flung Poet
Sponsored and judged by Doris Jones.**

1st Place	A Step Behind	Jerri Hardesty
2nd Place	I Have Never Lived Alone	Brenda Finnegan
3rd Place	Ambulatory Acts	Terry Jude Miller
HM #1	Serpentine	Mary Beth Magee
HM #2	Backstage at the Campus Play	Linda Owen
HM #3	Dealing with all Those Anxieties	Catherine Moran

**Category 18: Primrose Award: in memory of Barron and Dessie Caulfield
Sponsored and judged by Dorothy Wiman**

1 st Place	Moving On	Donna Geise
2 nd Place	A View From the Parsonage	Linda Owen
3 rd Place	Parsonage Life	Patsy Twiner
HM #1	The Preacher's Family	Mary Beth Magee
HM #2	The Clever Affair of the Purple Hair	Janice Freytag
HM #3	Know Not-Want Not	Philip Levin

**Category 19: Lynda Carol Memorial Award
Sponsored by Peggy and George Shumaker.
Judged by Peggy and George Shumaker and Linda Owen.**

1 st Place:	The Apple Tree	Carey Myers
2 nd Place:	Life Worth Living	Patsy Twiner
3 rd Place:	It Really IS a Wonderful Life	Janice Canerdy
HM #1:	I Woke Up Old This Morning	Doris Jones
HM #2:	A Way of Life	Philip Levin
HM #3:	Grateful for Home	Jerri Hardesty
HM #4:	My Life is Worth Living	Mary Alice Higgs
HM #5:	Celebrating God-Given Gifts	Ann Carolyn Cates

Category 20: Mississippi Heroes Award

Sponsored by William Hill Art and Poetry. Judged by William (Bill) Hill

1st place	His Footsteps	Mark LaFrancis
2nd place	Dr. Andrew Gallman: Outstanding Mississippi Methodist Evangelist	Peggy Shumaker
3rd place	Cooking for Life	Mary Beth Magee
HM #1	Tennessee Williams	Emory Jones
HM #2	The Greatest Mississippi Doctor	Ann Carolyn Cates
HM #3	Jim Henson	Mark Hudson

Category 21: Mississippi Villains Award

Sponsored by Anna's Pet Sitting. Judged by William (Bill) Hill

1 st place	Not to Name Names	Ann Carolyn Cates
2 nd place	Jim Crow	Mark LaFrancis
3rd place	Torry George McCallum	Mark Hudson
HM #1	When Public Trust is Betrayed	Philip Levin
HM #2	Teaching by Example	Mike Wahl
HM #3	Villainous James Copeland	Mary Beth Magee

Category 22: Ruth Richmond Award – Signatures

Sponsored and judged by Ruth Richmond.

1 st Place	Can I Have an Autograph?	Tanya Whitney
2 nd Place	Defining Lines	Jerri Hardesty
3 rd Place	Signatures	Mary Alice Higgs
HM #1	My Name is my Vow	Philip Levin
HM #2	Waiting and Watching	Ann Carolyn Cates
HM #3	The Dotted Line	Terry Jude Miller

Category 23: Intertwined Award

Sponsored and judged by Pete Massey.

1 st Place	Arboreal Echoes	Daniel Moreschi
2 nd Place	Intertwining over the years	Catherine Moran
3 rd Place	Night Musings	Philip Levin
HM #1	Wisteria Vine	Patsy Twiner
HM #2	Plaits of Three	Ruth Richmond
HM #3	A Tale of Two Mississippis	Cameron Thomas

Category 24: Fifty Words for _____ Award

Sponsored and judged by Jason Ervin.

1 st Place	50 Words for Lightning	Mary Jane Andol
2 nd Place	50 Words for Waterfall	Michael Shoemaker
3 rd Place	50 Words for Ink	Linda Owen
HM #1	40 Words for Music	Sarah Morin
HM #2	50 Words for Southerners	Donna Geise

Category 25: Video Award
Sponsored by Jason Ervin. Judged by Pamela Hatch

MPS 2024
Contest Winners

1 st Place	A Blessing for Modern Life	Jerri Hardesty
2 nd Place	Balance	Mary Beth Magee
3 rd Place	Love Takes Patience	Vivien Wyatt
HM #1	Lynda Walsh	Peggy Shumaker
HM #2	Baldy	Mark LaFrancis
HM #3	Cornucopia	Linda Owen

2024 Student Contest

Prizes for the Student Contest were sponsored by
Pott Camp Bank of Potts Camp, MS
Guaranty Bank and Trust of Belzoni, MS
and Bank Plus, also of Belzoni.

Level 1 (grades 1-3)

not enough entries

Level 2 (grades 4-5)

1 st Place	The Rain	Elizabeth Roman
2 nd Place	The Yonder Meadow	Johnna Moody
3 rd Place	Imaginary Pet	Ruth Ellen Castile
HM	The Sad, Lonely Mill	Sarah Pochert
HM	My Dog	Gideon Morgan

Level 3 (grades 6-8)

1 st Place	Nature's Song	Sophie Pochert
2 nd Place	Mighty Pine	Caleb Roman
3 rd Place	Old Rickety Bench	Paige Juge
HM	Promotion?	Elijah Morgan
HM	To Stand in the Face of Darkness	John Luke Roman

Level 4 (grades 9-12)

1 st Place	An American Small Town Sonnet	Crislyn Lance
2 nd Place	Who I Am	Sarah Lawrence
3 rd Place	The Moon Still Stands	Amelia Whitaker
HM	Feathered Harmony	Georgia Bailey
HM	Sidewalks	Carter Hillman

Level 5 (college undergraduates)

not enough entries

