

## **2020 Austin Poetry Awards**

The Society offered 19 awards, of which # 2 (Spoken Word) could not be awarded this year due to the limitations of meeting online.

19 people ventured to have their poems judged, some entering almost every contest and others just a select few. There were a total of 185 poems/photos submitted. As always, contest # 1 was most popular and drew 25 entries (several people entered multiple poems which paid off for them). Some other contests barely met the minimum of five entries, but all made it (except # 2, which received one entry). A few poems had to be rejected as they did not adhere to the specified length or format of the individual contest.

Tony Burnett of Kallisto Gaia Press donated two prizes. The others were donated by members of the Society for a combined total of \$1600.60. Most contests were judged by their donors. Contest # 1 was judged by Allyson Whipple, # 8 by Susan Rooke, # 14 by Christa Pandey.

While the overall quality was good, the judge in contest # 3 awarded only a first prize, finding the other poems not worthy of a prize. On the other hand, the donor/judge of # 13 added a third runner-up to the prize money and # 16 received a second first prize for a tie.

The winners are:

**#1: The Austin Poetry Society Award** (13 persons, 25 poems)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Von Bourland (Sweet water)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> James Trask (A smear of red)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Barbara Blanks (Stoneware mug)
- HM Susan J. Rogers (Breathing with the vegetable kingdom)

**# 2: The Spoken Word Poetry Award** (1)

not awarded

**# 3: A World Without Borders** (7)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Lavern Spencer McCarthy (Are we there yet?)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> not awarded
- 3 not awarded

**# 4: The Funny Side of Life** (11, one rejected)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Barbara Blanks (In a hurry)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> LaVern Spencer McCarthy (Summer time...)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ailana Larson (St. Paddy's Day feast)

**# 5: The Poetry of Presence Award** (8)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Elizabeth Kropf (Medium at En-dor)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Susan J. Rogers (Two-winged soldier)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ailana Larson (Sacred cycle of creation)
- HM Benjamin Nash (Azaleas)

**# 6: The Road Trip Award** (12)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Michelle Hartman (A hitching hiking clown...)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Bradley Strahan (On the high road)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Susan J. Rogers (Her glory days)
- HM Jeffrey Taylor (Speeding across West Texas)

**# 7: The Unexpected (14)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Carie Juettner (Growing faces)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Susan J. Rogers (The real Dr. Who)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Maria X. Wells (In Trieste, by the sea)
- HM Sergio Elizondo-Góngora (Revenge of the Back-lead)
- HM James Trask (Organized/Resistance)

**# 8: Fill in the Blanks (15)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bradley Strahan (Irretrievable things)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Von Bourland (Inspiration)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Elizabeth Kropf (How to dress for...)

**# 9: The World Peace Award (8)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Greg Silver (What you let in)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> James Trask (Truth that befits...)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Barbara Blanks (No matter how we spin it)
- HM Von Bourland (Fall if the Wall)

**# 10: The Trick or Treat Award (8)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> James Trask (Montville outdoor soccer...)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jerri Hardesty (Holiday treat)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Von Bourland (Unexpecte Trick-or-Treater)
- HM Michelle Hartman (Past future imperfectly tense)

**# 11: The Optimist Award (13)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> LaVern Spencer McCarthy (A church in the prairie)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jerri Hardesty (Lullabies)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Carie Juettner (Miracles exist)

**# 12: The “I Remember” Award (8)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bradley Strahan (To my father who...)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> James Trask (The move)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Michelle Hartman (Another life not mine)

**# 13: The Dark Side Award (15, one rejected)**

1<sup>st</sup> Michelle Hartman (Fun for the whole family)  
Runner-Up James Trask (Monstrous love)  
Runner-Up Ailana Larson (Possessed)  
Runner-Up Carie Juettner (Midnight menagerie)

**# 14: Marianne McNeil Logan Memorial Award (7)**

1<sup>st</sup> Bradley Strahan (Walls)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Babara Blanks (Pip Pip and Cheerio)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Ailana Larson (Heading back to Texas)

**# 15: The Haiku/Senryu Delight Award (10)**

1<sup>st</sup> Von S. Bourland (pink salmon white)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Elizabeth Kropf (Sam, at three)  
3<sup>rd</sup> LaVern Spencer McCarthy (barren winter sky)

**# 16: The Fall Fun Award (9)**

1<sup>st</sup> tie Barbara Blanks (Oktoberfest Oompah)  
1<sup>st</sup> tie Jerri Hardesty (Exfoliating)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Carie Juettner (Fauxliage)  
3<sup>rd</sup> LaVern Spencer McCarthy (Let's celebrate)

**# 17: The Shakespearean Sonnet Award (5)**

1<sup>st</sup> LaVern Spencer McCarthy (Roucouc Rhythms)  
2<sup>nd</sup> James Trask (His view)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jerri Hardesty (The princess)

**# 18: Tomorrow's Poets Today Award (6)**

1<sup>st</sup> James Trask (If you call me)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bradley Strahan (Moonstone)

**# 19: APS Anthology Cover Art (4)**

Aleta Wilder