

## Mississippi Poetry Society, Inc. 2020 Spring Festival Contest Winners

**Best of the Fest:** “All the Pauses We Hold on To” by Catherine Moran (Little Rock, AR)

### **Category 1: Mississippi Poetry Society 2020 Award (16 Entries)**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: “The Real ‘Great River Road’” by Barbara Blanks (Garland, TX)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: “Land of Contrasts” by Jeanne S. Kelly (Madison, MS)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: “Backroads of Mississippi” by Grace Fletcher (Kosciusko, MS)

1HM: “Do You Remember?” by Micki Freels (Crystal Springs, MS)

2HM: “Directions” by Briana Fae Brown (Brandon, MS)

3HM: “Smilin’ in the Blues” by Linda Watson Owen (Brandon, MS)

### **Category 2: MPS North Branch Award (20 Entries)**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: “An Embarrassment of Riches” by Linda Watson Owen (Brandon, MS)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: “I Could Have Danced with Water Nymphs” by Rita Aiken Moritz (Pell City, AL)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: “Stressful Family Tree” by Ann Carolyn Cates (Southaven, MS)

1HM: “Captured Hearts” by Dorothy Wiman (Belzoni, MS)

2HM: “A Sonnet of Meditation on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm” by Brenda Brown Finnegan (Ocean Springs, MS)

3HM: “Tomorrow’s Dream” by Judy Davies (Gautier, MS)

### **Category 3: MPS Central Branch “Weather or Not” Award (19 Entries)**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: “Flood Tide” by Linda Treat (Blue Springs, MS)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: “All the Whims of Weather” by Catherine Moran (Little Rock, AR)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: “The Snow Storm” by Philip L. Levin (Biloxi, MS)

1HM: “Pastoral Bas Relief” by Doris Jones (Madison, MS)

2HM: “Wolf” by Tommy Little (Brandon, MS)

3HM: “Thunder Storm” by Dr. Emory D. Jones (Iuka, MS)

### **Category 4: MPS South Branch Award (22 Entries)**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: “Storms” by Sara Gipson (Scott, AR)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: “The Thunderstorm” by Robert K. Goddard (Brandon, MS)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: “Across the Countryside” by Barbara Blanks (Garland, TX)

1HM: “Caught Unprepared” by Philip L. Levin (Biloxi, MS)

2HM: “No Escape” by Daniel B. Pickett (Madison, MS)

3HM: “Dark Skies” by Mary Alice Higgs (Roxie, MS)

### **Category 5: MPS President’s Award (17 Entries)**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: “A Splattering of Chosen Ways” by Catherine Moran (Little Rock, AR)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: “Everyday Magic” by Terry H. Woosley (Brandon, MS)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: “If We Hadn’t...” by Gail Denham (Sunriver, OR)

1HM: “Flowers” by G. Mark LaFrancis (Natchez, MS)

2HM: “He Chose Me” by Mary Alice Higgs (Roxie, MS)

3HM: “The Bodies of Voices Yet to Be” by Tommy Little (Brandon, MS)

### **Category 6: On the Face of It: The Scope of Poetic Endeavor (28 Entries)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: “Immersion and Flight by Linda Watson Owen (Brandon, MS)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: “When the Page is Clear (Soliloquy of an Old Poet)” by Tommy Little (Brandon, MS)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: “A Gypsy in Jackson Square” by Daniel B. Pickett (Madison, MS)  
1HM: “No Time for Writer’s Block” by Nancy Cook (St. Paul, MN)  
2HM: “Poetry Inspired by Birds” by Sara Gipson (Scott, AR)  
3HM: “The Scope of Space Shuttle Endeavour” by Mark Hudson (Evanston, IL)

### **Category 7: Carpe Diem Award (21 Entries)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: “I Intend to Live Until I Die” by Rita Aiken Moritz (Pell City, AL)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: “Don’t Tarry if You Want to Marry” by Elaine McDermott (Gulfport, MS)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: “Somehow it Just Slipped Away” by Mary Alice Higgs (Roxie, MS)  
1HM: “Live Each One” by Linda Watson Owen (Brandon, MS)  
2HM: “It’s YOUR Time to Shine” by Janice Canerdy (Potts Camp, MS)  
3HM: “Mom’s Off Her Rocker” by Barbara Blanks (Garland, TX)

### **Category 8: The Sky is the Limit Award (37 Entries)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: “Honegger’s Pacific 231 Visits Indiana” by Jenna Pashley Smith (Richmond, TX)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: “Apple Trees” by Sara Gipson (Scott, AR)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: “Soul Safe” by Briana Fae Brown (Brandon, MS)  
1HM: “Allowing Things to be Defined” by Catherine Moran (Little Rock, AR)  
2HM: “Hard Times, Coal Dust, and Banjos” by Tommy Little (Brandon, MS)  
3HM: “A Single Red Rose” by Tanya R. Whitney (Sorrento, LA)

### **Category 9: Barron and Dessie Caulfield Memorial Award (25 Entries)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: “The Lies We Tell to Others and Ourselves” by Rita Aiken Moritz (Pell City, AL)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: “Classic” by Jerri Hardesty (Brierfield, AL)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: “China Doll” by Jenna Pashley Smith (Richmond, TX)  
1HM: “Woe to Faux” by Barbara Blanks (Garland, TX)  
2HM: “Aunt Pearl” by Linda Watson Owen (Brandon, MS)  
3HM: “Prayer” by Doris Jones (Madison, MS)

### **Category 10: Potts Camp Bank Award (36 Entries)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: “Your Story” by Linda Watson Owen (Brandon, MS)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: “The Preacher and the Paperboy” by Nick Sweet (Shepherd, TX)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: “Change My Shoes—Change My World” by Mary Alice Higgs (Roxie, MS)  
1HM: “A Tiny Mustard Seed” by Ann Carolyn Cates (Southaven, MS)  
2HM: “Goodbye” by Tanya R. Whitney (Sorrento, LA)  
3HM: “A Special Journey” by Sara Gipson (Scott, AR)

### **Category 11: Doctor's Dreams Award (16 Entries)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: "A Mother's Agony" by Jeanne S. Kelly (Madison, MS)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: "The Bright Red Geezer Sticker on My File" by Rita Aiken Moritz (Pell City, AL)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: "The Procedure" by Tommy Little (Brandon, MS)  
1HM: "Poor Boys" by G. Mark LaFrancis (Natchez, MS)  
2HM: "Deathwatch" by Terry H. Woosley (Brandon, MS)  
3HM: "Following Doctor's Orders" by Ann Carolyn Cates (Southaven, MS)

### **Category 12: Helen Kressman Taylor Memorial Award (21 Entries)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: "Decent/Descent" by Nick Sweet (Shepherd, TX)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: "Daddy's Home" by Brenda Brown Finnegan (Ocean Springs, MS)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: "The Real World...Minus One" by Ann Carolyn Cates (Southaven, MS)  
1HM: "My First Year Teaching High School Was a Shock" by Briana Fae Brown (Brandon, MS)  
2HM: "A New Life" by Philip L. Levin (Biloxi, MS)  
3HM: "Flights into the Real World" by Catherine Moran (Little Rock, AR)

### **Category 13: Ekphrastic Award (19 Entries)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: "A Blue Life" by Sara Gipson (Scott, AR)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: "Angel in Amber" by Dalene Stull (Danville, OH)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: "Portrait of a Woman" by Rita Aiken Moritz (Pell City, AL)  
1HM: "Magnificent Landscape" by Ann Carolyn Cates (Southaven, MS)  
2HM: "Resting" by Gail Denham (Sunriver, OR)  
3HM: "Picasso's *The Old Guitarist*" by Mary Alice Higgs (Roxie, MS)

### **Category 14: Narrative Poem Award (21 Entries)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: "Fillet on a Grand Scale" by Barbara Blanks (Garland, TX)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: "The Littlest Prospector" by Dalene Stull (Danville, OH)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: "Barbara, Marian, and the Elder" by Nick Sweet (Shepherd, TX)  
1HM: "A Stalking Horse" by Robert K. Goddard (Brandon, MS)  
2HM: "No Room in the Inn" by Elaine McDermott (Gulfport, MS)  
3HM: "Elegy for a Drowned Sienna" by Jeanne S. Kelly (Madison, MS)

### **Category 15: Visions of Our World (19 Entries)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: "Unshriven" by Nancy Cook (St. Paul, MN)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: "The Nest" by Gail Denham (Sunriver, OR)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: "Untitled (Tanka Form)" by Sara Gipson (Scott, AR)  
1HM: "Climate Change" by Linda Watson Owen (Brandon, MS)  
2HM: "To Save the Planet" by Philip L. Levin (Biloxi, MS)

### **Category 16: Special Award (22 Entries)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: “Fishing for Veggies” by Becky Alexander (Cambridge, Ontario, Canada)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: “Planting Carrots” by Barbara Blanks (Garland, TX)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: “Morning Miracle” by Jerri Hardesty (Brierfield, AL)  
1HM: “The Purple Quilt” by Daniel B. Pickett (Madison, MS)  
2HM: “MawMaw’s Quilt” by Mary Alice Higgs (Roxie, MS)  
3HM: “The Thing About Quilts” by Dr. Emory D. Jones (Iuka, MS)

### **Category 17: Grands Award (27 Entries)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: “Over...Under...Over...Under” by Doris Jones (Madison, MS)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: “Treasure” by Terry Jude Miller (Richmond, TX)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: “Grandma’s Robe” by Tanya R. Whitney (Sorrento, LA)  
1HM: “The Life and Times of Grandma B” by Hazel R. James-Lonie (Jackson, MS)  
2HM: “Thanks, Grandma” by Barbara Blanks (Garland, TX)  
3HM: “Four Generations in the Kitchen” by Nancy Cook (St. Paul, MN)

### **Category 18: Mary Winklebleck Memorial Award (18 Entries)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: “Watching the Moon” by Catherine Moran (Little Rock, AR)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: “Foster Maggies” by Briana Fae Brown (Brandon, MS)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: “The Human Race” by Rita Aiken Moritz (Pell City, AL)  
1HM: “Whispers” by Linda Watson Owen (Brandon, MS)  
2HM: “So Many” by Janice Canerdy (Potts Camp, MS)  
3HM: “Anniversaries” by Brenda Brown Finnegan (Ocean Springs, MS)

### **Category 19: Ruby L. Dennis Memorial Award (20 Entries)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: “Wild Strawberries” by Nancy Cook (St. Paul, MN)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: “In the Garden” by Barbara Blanks (Garland, TX)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: “Summer Garden Music” by Sara Gipson (Scott, AR)  
1HM: “Gardens Planted with Love” by Ann Carolyn Cates (Southaven, MS)  
2HM: “Yesterday’s Rose” by Linda Watson Owen (Brandon, MS)  
3HM: “A Garden of Friends” by Doris Jones (Madison, MS)

### **Category 20: The Linger Longer Award (25 Entries)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: “All the Pauses We Hold on To” by Catherine Moran (Little Rock, AR)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: “Today, I Lingered by the Window” by Rita Aiken Moritz (Pell City, AL)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: “The Swans” by G. Mark LaFrancis (Natchez, MS)  
1HM: “Bridges and Cigars” by Briana Fae Brown (Brandon, MS)  
2HM: “Unsafe to Linger Among the Dead” by Ann Carolyn Cates (Southaven, MS)  
3HM: “At Springcreek Preserve on Her Birthday” by Barbara Blanks (Garland, TX)

### **Category 21: Memories of Railroads (13 Entries)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: “The Chugging of the Midnight Train” by Rita Aiken Moritz (Pell City, AL)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: “Trains” by Philip L. Levin (Biloxi, MS)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: “Railroad Town” by Dr. Emory D. Jones (Iuka, MS)  
1HM: “Trains of Memory” by Sara Gipson (Scott, AR)  
2HM: “Railroad Ties” by Catherine Moran (Little Rock, AR)  
3HM: “Toy Trains” by Mark Hudson (Evanston, IL)

### **Category 22: Ruth Richmond Award (17 Entries)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: “Smooth White Stones” by Philip L. Levin (Biloxi, MS)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: “Handle Gravel” by Grace Fletcher (Kosciusko, MS)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: “Always in Transition” by Jerri Hardesty (Brierfield, AL)  
1HM: “Memories of Gravel” by Patricia Butkovich (Gautier, MS)  
2HM: “Roads of Grit and Gravel” by Linda Watson Owen (Brandon, MS)  
3HM: “Waling on Gravel” by Sara Gipson (Scott, AR)

### **Category 23: Past Presidents’ Award (9 Entries)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: “Annual Pilgrimage to Destin” by Ann Carolyn Cates (Southaven, MS)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: “Disney World or Bust” by Philip L. Levin (Biloxi, MS)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: “Christmas Trip to a Beach” by Sara Gipson (Scott, AR)  
1HM: “Final Pilgrimage to Graceland” by Jeanne S. Kelly (Madison, MS)

### **Category 24: The Spirit of Meridian Award (29 Entries)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: “Monday Morning” by Daniel B. Pickett (Madison, MS)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: “Ruse de Cezanne” by Nick Sweet (Shepherd, TX)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: “Oh, Say Can You See That We’re All Eating Light” by Brenda Brown Finnegan (Ocean Springs, MS)  
1HM: “I Can’t Write Limericks Either” by Barbara Blanks (Garland, TX)  
2HM: “Be in Good Spirits, Meridian” by Ann Carolyn Cates (Southaven, MS)  
3HM: “The Case of the Missing Glove” by Tanya R. Whitney (Sorrento, LA)

### **Category 25: The Fletcher Award (28 Entries)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: “Picturing Paradise” by Ann Carolyn Cates (Southaven, MS)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: “Heaven, with Gates Awaiting” by Ruth F. Richmond (Lexington, MS)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: “Weightless for Eternity” by Jeanne S. Kelly (Madison, MS)  
1HM: “Forever Open Wide” by Carey C. Myers (Horn Lake, MS)  
2HM: “Tasting Heaven” by Doris Jones (Madison, MS)  
3HM: “That Glorious Day” by Dr. Emory D. Jones (Iuka, MS)

## **Category 26: Limerick Award (20 Entries)**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: “If She and He are They, Who are We?” by Barbara Blanks (Garland, TX)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: “So Annoying” by Janice Canerdy (Potts Camp, MS)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: “Limerick” by Nancy Cook (St. Paul, MN)

1HM: “Poor Dave” by Jerri Hardesty (Brierfield, AL)

2HM: “Mating Season” by Sara Gipson (Scott, AR)

3HM: “Poet Limerick” by Dr. Emory D. Jones (Iuka, MS)

## **Comments from Judges:**

### **Category 1:**

“I enjoyed the entries. Thanks for including me in the judging.”

### **Category 6:**

“Thank you for the opportunity of reading so many fine poems.”

### **Category 8:**

“There were a lot of awesome poems submitted. Picking the winners was hard. I enjoyed reading all of the great entries.”

### **Category 12:**

“So many excellent entries!”

### **Category 15:**

“1<sup>st</sup> Unshriven: For presenting, in an original, creative and compelling way, what is at stake with climate change: that is, a planet full of life that is strange and wonderful.”

“2<sup>nd</sup> The Nest: For a well crafted execution of an imaginative approach to the topic, peppered with fantastic splashes of detail. One question: just what did make those eggs?”

“3<sup>rd</sup> Untitled (Tanka Form): For successfully employing an increasingly evocative and dynamic imagery, a short choppy rhythm, and a strong finish to dramatize climate change.”

### **Category 16:**

“Many good poems here. I looked for those who integrated the words into a good story. Some poems felt contrived. So this is how I did the judging.”

### **Best of the Fest:**

“This poem is fresh, emotional, has wonderful efficiency of words, but is perfectly descriptive. It flows, yet the center holds in this poem, i.e. the opening thought carries through to be completed in the end. I think this is a poem that will stand the test of time.”