

**Writers Unlimited-MPS South Branch**  
**45<sup>th</sup> Annual Literary Competition**  
**2016 Winners List**

Category 1 – Writers Unlimited Award (Judge: Jeanne Kelly)

- First Place: Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN *A Fine Logic*  
Second Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX *Ella and the Icon Currently Known as Prints*  
Third Place: Dr. Philip L. Levin, Biloxi, MS *Aurora*  
HM1: Dorothy Rogers, Lucedale, MS *The Burning*  
HM2: Karen Liebhaber, Pocahontas, AR *The Mill Rat*  
HM3: Judy Davies, Gautier, MS *Hemingway's House*

Category 2 – Chevron Products/Pascagoula Refinery Award (Judge: Betty Malone)

- First Place: Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN *Pa'ella*  
Second Place: Dr. Philip L. Levin, Biloxi, MS *The Drug Raid*  
Third Place: Beth Z. Staas, LaGrange Park, IL *The Best Money Can Buy*  
HM1: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX *Sour Milk*  
HM2: Karen Liebhaber, Pocahontas, AR *The Burden of Heritage*  
HM3: Jeanne S. Kelly, Madison, MS *Betty Sue's Baby*

Category 3 – Coastal Insurance Award (Judge: Bonnie Kidd)

- First Place: Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN *Breaking Wings*  
Second Place: Judy Davies, Gautier, MS *The Night Watchman*  
Third Place: Dr. Philip L. Levin, Biloxi, MS *Christmas Eve in the E.R.*  
HM: Karen McAferty Morris, Pensacola, FL *The 24-Hour Poetry Reading Marathon, 2-3 a.m. Shift*

Category 4 – Gulf Coast Author's Award (Judge: Philip L. Levin)

- First Place: Judy Davies, Gautier, MS *Finding Closure*  
Second Place: Brenda B. Finnegan, Ocean Springs, MS *A Mississippi Girl Remembers*  
Third Place: Nick Sweet, Shepherd, TX *Varrone*  
HM1: Jeanne S. Kelly, Madison, MS *Baby Steps: Bridging the Racial Divide*  
HM2: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX *The Eeyore Principle*  
HM3: Beth Z. Staas, LaGrange Park, IL *Playing on the Team*

Category 5 – Burnham Drugs Award (Judge: Ann Carolyn Cates)

- First Place: Linda W. Owen, Brandon MS *Adieu*  
Second Place: Jeanne S. Kelly, Madison, MS *Creativity's Curse*  
Third Place: Daniel B. Pickett, Madison, MS *Harvest*  
HM1: Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL *Star Quality*  
HM2: Dena Gorrell, Edmond, OK *Our Artistic, Playful Ghost*  
HM3: Judy Davies, Gautier, MS *The Old Farm*

Category 6 – Ruby L. Dennis Memorial Award (Judge: Patricia Butkovich)

- First Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX *Along the Ridge Trail*  
Second Place: Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR *I'll give you a call*  
Third Place: Linda W. Owen, Brandon, MS *The Best Medicine*  
HM1: Dr. Emory D. Jones, Iuka, MS *Spring Mourning*

HM2: Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL *Waterfalls*  
HM3: Carol D. Meeks, Tulsa, OK *Every Four Years These Goals Rebound*

Category 7 – Mississippi Poetry Society-South Branch Award (Judge: Ann Carolyn Cates)

First Place: Brenda B. Finnegan, Ocean Springs, MS *Natural Wonder*  
Second Place: Mary Lee Terry, Ocean Springs, MS *My Friend's House*  
Third Place: Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN *True to Nature*  
HM1: Linda W. Owen, Brandon, MS *A Woodland Invitation*  
HM2: Dr. Philip L. Levin, Biloxi, MS *The Anthropologist*  
HM3: Jeanne S. Kelly, Madison, MS *Discordant Notes*

Category 8 – Fill in the Blanks Award (Judge: Barbara Blanks)

First Place: Doris Jones, Madison, MS *Words on Words*  
Second Place: Dr. Philip L. Levin, Biloxi, MS *Witch's Brew*  
Third Place: Patricia Butkovich, Gautier, MS *The Ring*  
HM1: Karen McAferty Morris, Pensacola, FL *Compost*  
HM2: Elaine McDermott, Gulfport, MS *Flying with Silver Wings of Dawn*  
HM3: Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR *Sparrows in the mall*

Category 9 – Kathy McCall Memorial Award (Judge: Elaine McDermott)

First Place: Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN *Last October*  
Second Place: Nick Sweet, Shepherd, TX *Decent/Descent*  
Third Place: Jeanne S. Kelly, Madison, MS *Leah*  
HM1: Karen McAferty Morris, Pensacola, FL *Noise*  
HM2: Dorothy Rogers, Lucedale, MS *Seasons*

Category 10 – Mississippi Memories Award (Judge: Dierdre Payne)

First Place: Doris Jones, Madison, MS *Tractor Shed*  
Second Place: Jeanne S. Kelly, Madison, MS *Christine, 1967*  
Third Place: Dr. Philip L. Levin, Biloxi, MS *The Legacy of a House*  
HM: Judy Davies, Gautier, MS *James Earl Jones*

Category 11 – Davies Favorite Form Award (Judge: Judy Davies)

First Place: Dr. Emory D. Jones, Iuka, MS *Moonstruck*  
Second Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX *Even before cell phones...*  
Third Place: Patricia Butkovich, Gautier, MS *My Bird*  
HM1: Dr. Philip L. Levin, Biloxi, MS *In My Arms She Gently Rests*  
HM2: Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL *I Am What I Am*  
HM3: Linda W. Owen, Brandon, MS *River*

Category 12 – My Friend Award (Judge: Sheila Grieco)

First Place: Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR *To find a place*  
Second Place: Carol D. Meeks, Tulsa, OK *Friends Forever*  
Third Place: Patricia Butkovich, Gautier, MS *Friendship Quilt*  
HM1: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX *Wrinkled, Rumpled and Saggy*  
HM2: Dr. Philip L. Levin, Biloxi, MS *Rescued*

Category 13 – Limerick Award (Judge: Joan Crow)

First Place: Elaine McDermott, Gulfport, MS *Picnics*

Second Place: Brenda B. Finnegan, Ocean Springs, MS *Limerick*  
Third Place: Judy Davies, Gautier, MS *Reneé*  
HM1: Jeanne S. Kelly, Madison, MS *Bored No More*  
HM2: Daniel B. Pickett, Madison, MS *Grandpa's Diet*  
HM3: Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR *Truth proof*

Category 14 – Garbin Award (Judge: Faith Garbin)

First Place: Greg Horshok, Ocean Springs, MS *Bed Head*  
Second Place: Judy Davies, Gautier, MS *The Toll of Aging*  
Third Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX *The incredible beauty of joy*  
HM1: Linda W. Owen, Brandon, MS *Love's Puzzle*  
HM2: Patricia Butkovich, Gautier, MS *...weren't we fine...*

**STUDENT WINNERS:**

Youth Awards #1-Grades 1-5 (Judge: Brenda B. Finnegan)

First Place: Caleb Lawrence, Gr. 5, Presbyterian Day School, Kosciusko, MS *One More Game*  
Second Place: Patricia Hoffer, Gr. 4, Central Elementary, Pascagoula, MS *The Day Sets Away*  
Third Place: Isabell Gallahue, Gr. 5, Trent Lott Academy, Pascagoula, MS *Dance and Sing*  
No other entries in this category

Youth Awards #2-Grades 6-12 (Judge: Barbara Moss)

First Place: Thalia McInnis, Gr. 10, Northeast Lauderdale High, Meridian, MS *Who is she?*  
Second Place: Madison Reynolds, Gr. 10, Northeast Lauderdale High, Meridian MS *Nature's Own Way*  
Third Place: Seline Decoteau, Gr. 9, Resurrection Catholic High, Pascagoula, MS *Thunderstorm*  
HM1: Peyton Allen, Gr. 10, Heritage Academy High, Columbus, MS *Fall*  
HM2: Mallory Amos, Gr. 11, Heritage Academy High, Columbus, MS *One*  
HM3: Thomas Chain, Gr. 10, Heritage Academy High, Columbus, MS *Summertime*

Youth Awards #3-College Undergraduate (Judge: Ken Meyer)

First Place: Ryan Wilshusen, Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA *Master*  
No other entries in this category