

# A COMMON WEALTH OF POETRY

Newsletter of the Poetry Society of Virginia ♦ April 2021

## A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

by Terry Cox-Joseph

As I write this, the sun is peeking between clouds, birds are singing everywhere, redbuds, dogwoods, cherry blossoms, and wisteria grace the landscape... and pollen runs in rivulets down the sidewalk. Ah, the vagaries of spring. And the beauty of April—National Poetry Month! (NaPoMo—in case you’ve never heard of it).

We will be voting on our bylaws update at the May Festival on Zoom. Yes, we have a festival, albeit a mini-fest. Covid-19 took a chunk out of our world. A link will be sent for all to attend, May 29, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Voting takes place first.

Among so many other activities, Virginia Poet Laureate Luisa Igloria hosted two events this month, one featuring the poetry society VPs (and myself), the other featuring professors at Old Dominion University. What a talented, diverse group of people! “Poems for Our Living and Breathing” was a great success and so educational and entertaining. The themes of civic discourse, responsibility, and social justice came through in myriad ways: Poems of racial (mis)understanding, countries torn apart by dictatorships, the angst of teenage years, musings over gravesites, and a common thread between Covid-19 masks and the recognizable phrase, “I can’t breathe.” The Muse Writers Center in Norfolk has been a great partner in so many of these Zoom readings, and I want to thank them for their openness, friendliness, and professionalism.

A group of poets on one of our Facebook pages has been writing a poem a day, using several prompts (Thank you, Derek Kannemeyer). I am heartened and amazed at the completely different directions a poem can take, using the same three words in a prompt. Human ingenuity and creativity at their best.

Our annual Adult and Student Contests have been judged and awarded (see winners’ list later in this issue). I am writing winners’ checks as fast as I can.\* Thank you, Guy Terrell and Katherine Decker for your help with the certificates. And thank you to all of the judges. I am so very appreciative of your generosity of time, spirit, and talent. We hope that contributing to this contest is a form of competitive comradery, exciting in its anticipation, and, as it was for me for many years, a useful challenge to best match poems to categories, which helped clarify for me the essence of each poem. If all works out as planned, the winning ceremony on Zoom will be recorded and stored on our website for those who wish to view it. I have always found it useful to read or hear the winners to understand the different attributes of quality better in order to know who “won.” And it always gives me fodder for my own poems.

Many thanks to Luisa Igloria who judged one of our Adult Contest Categories and who was the final judge for our North American Book Award. Sofia Starnes performed a fabulous job organizing, advertising, communicating, delivering the books, and contacting the winners (surely the most enjoyable aspect!). While we admire Luisa’s superior poetry skills, both in writing and teaching, she is particularly discerning when it comes to choosing prize winners. Three days after she had chosen John Murillos’ book *Kontemporary Amerikan Poetry*, it was awarded the Kingsly Tufts Award!

\*In regard to writing checks, our student intern resigned, and we are again in search of a treasurer. Please be patient while I work through the various aspects of this challenge.

(And please email me if you are interested in volunteering.)

Keep those poems coming!



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## NORTHERN REGION

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Happy May Day!

I hope you've enjoyed celebrating poetry over the last month!

We have not held any official PSV events either in person or on Zoom; however, members have been actively writing, publishing, and participating in virtual readings. Our spring event planned for 2020 would have been March 14. Even a year later, we were not comfortable holding an in-person event, so we prefer to wait rather than hold a virtual event this spring.

I have tried to participate in many poetry online events offered by others, and I often share those I like with northern region poets. In case you are interested, the two below are still available to watch on YouTube.

The Central Rappahannock Regional Library's event on April 6 includes readings (live and recorded) by PSV members (bold, if I am aware of PSV membership), including many from the northern region (bold italic): **Kim B. Miller** – Live, Lynda Allen – Recording, **Cathy Hailey** – Recording, **John L. Dutton II** – Live, **Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda** – Recording, **David Anthony Sam** – Recording, Allita Irby – Recording, Laura Bylenok – Live, **Mike Maggio** – Recording, Elizabeth Spencer Spragins – Recording, **Katherine Gotthardt** – Recording, Bennie Herron – Live, Jenna Villforth Veazey – Recording, **Kathy Smaltz** – Recording, and Questions & Answers. The link to the event is on our website: Celebration of Poetry. You can also find it by going to the library's virtual events page and searching for Celebration of Poetry.

On International Women's Day, I watched a wonderful conversation between Alicia Keyes and Amanda Gorman in an interview with a Time senior editor. They talk about their own experiences creating and ask each other questions, discussing the facade of strength they use to protect themselves, their desire to be authentic rather than perfect, their distrust of critics at times, writing and activism, and the difficulty of writing on demand or for a particular purpose like political activism. They also show their vulnerability and honest interest in learning from each other. I know you would enjoy it. This interview was part of *Time Magazine's* virtual *Women's Summit: Voices of the Future*, and you can still watch on Youtube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1\\_LPdz2dFA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1_LPdz2dFA).

In March, **John Dutton** and **Alice Mergler** teamed up in celebration of Women's History Month with Instagram quotes by women about reading. For April, John curated a poet a day on Instagram. Check out [spilled\\_ink\\_va](#)!

**Claudia Gary** offered two ways to dive into formal poetry (villanelle and sonnet) in April, with her one-day Zoom workshops via the Writer's Center ([writer.org](http://writer.org)): The courses will likely be available again in the fall.

### APRIL PLAUDITS

Congratulations to **Claudia Gary**, whose poem, "Vaccine Reactions," was published in *The New Verse News* on April 4th: <https://newversenews.blogspot.com/search?q=Vaccine+Reactions>.

Congratulations to **Katherine Gotthardt** whose poems were accepted for publication in the *Northern Virginia Review*: "Downtown Shopping" and "Discussion Topic."

Congratulations to **Jacqueline Jewels**, whose poem, "Unclouded Vision" appears in *How to Love the World: Poems of Gratitude and Hope*, a new anthology edited by James Crews. *Bourgeon Literary Journal* published four poems: "Feathers in a Folktale," "Acquired Skills," "The Advantage of a Fairy Godmother," and "Angels." *Another Chicago Magazine* published her poem, "Looking for Horns," and "Woman with the Red Carry-On," appears in *Lowestoft Chronicle*, Issue #46.

Congratulations to **Susan Notar** whose two poems have been selected for publication later this spring. "Menagerie in the Pandemic" will appear in *Artemis*, and "Yezidi, Northern Iraq" will appear in *Burningword*.

Congratulations to **Sally Zakariya**, whose poem "What You Say/What I Hear" was published by Albany Poets in February: <https://albanypoets.com/2021/02/one-poem-sally-zakariya/>. Her poem "Bookish" appeared March 18 on Global Poemic: <https://globalpoemic.wordpress.com/2021/03/18/bookish/>.

Northern Region *continued* \_\_\_\_\_

## POETRY EVENTS

April 25, 5:30-6:45 pm. Reston Readings, hosted by Nathan Leslie. Featured readers: writers in the Washington Writers Publishing House anthology *This is What America Looks Like*. See <https://www.facebook.com/groups/232505597093213> for details. Future event details can be found on the same page.

May 8, 2:00-5:00 pm. Poets Anonymous Open Mic. Come share your poetry at Northern Virginia's longest running Open Mic venue (every 2nd Saturday of the month). <http://www.meetup.com/POETS-ANONYMOUS-NOVA-s-longest-running-Open-Mic-since-1991/?a=pcmg2>

May 13, 7 pm. Readings on the Pike, the second Thursday of each month on Zoom, with live captioning. See <https://www.facebook.com/groups/readingsonthepike/about> for details.

May 14, 7 pm. Spilled Ink on Zoom, hosted by **John Dutton**. Details at <https://www.spilledinkva.com/events>.

May 28, 7 pm. Spilled Ink on Zoom, hosted by **John Dutton**. Details at <https://www.spilledinkva.com/events>.

**NORTH CENTRAL REGION** \_\_\_\_\_

DAVID ANTHONY SAM, VP

Combined NW and NC regions continue to meet via Zoom on the third Saturday of every month at 2 p.m.

**NORTHWEST REGION** \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION VACANT

**EASTERN REGION** \_\_\_\_\_

KATHLEEN DECKER, VP

There have been no in-person meetings in the Eastern Region to report. Several poetry groups continue to exchange poetry via email strings or other virtual means. An Eastern Region Poetry reading via Zoom is planned for **May 1st, 2021, Saturday, from 3-5pm**. Interested poets should contact Eastern Region VP Kathleen Decker at [sam.jones459@yahoo.com](mailto:sam.jones459@yahoo.com) and submit 2 poems for reading. The theme is "Spring" or "Rebirth."

In other news, **Ed Lull**, a long-time leader of PSV, has published a new book of poetry and essays. It is entitled *My Game of Life* and is available on Amazon.

**SOUTHEAST REGION** \_\_\_\_\_

KINDRA MCDONALD, VP

On Feb. 13, we held our first virtual event. "Let us Count the Ways," an evening of love poems featuring Bob Arthur, Nathan Richardson, Gabriela Igloria, and Madeline Garcia. We had 60 people register and just under 30 attend. The region acquired at least 3 new members. During the month of April, I sent weekly poetry prompts to the SE Region members via email.

I continue to talk about PSV in The Muse poetry classes I teach and hope to recruit some new members at the end of my spring classes.

I have received ONE poem submitted to the Jeff Hewitt anthology project – We are Vast. Please spread the word on this. I would really love to have this come to fruition. If you have poems you've written or know someone who does, please send them to [wearevasthanthology@gmail.com](mailto:wearevasthanthology@gmail.com).

**CENTRAL REGION** \_\_\_\_\_

JOANNA LEE, VP

A short and sweet update from the Central Region!

We're keeping things connected virtually here for now, with regular community events like Charlottesville-based 4th Wednesday Zoom open mics and River City Poets' twice monthly critiques online.

We're hopeful for a return to live outdoor events in the coming weeks, however. In Richmond, River City Poets had a Poetry Night on the Patio on April 23, and we have an open mic event at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens scheduled for May 16.

We likewise anticipate holding an open-air, in-person annual meeting later this summer or fall. Please get in touch if you have ideas you'd like to see happen as part of our program!

Meanwhile, PSV members are always welcome to join in any of the Central Region community events—live or virtual—listed above; drop me a line, and I'll be more than happy to connect you.

Hope you had a Happy National Poetry Month!

## WESTERN REGION

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JERI ROGERS, VP

As founder and editor of *Artemis Journal*, this is a very busy time for me, especially with layout and printing process for release in June. My PSV report is mainly about publishing our journal which has 80 poets and 60 artists. We have been nominated for the Kendig Awards this year. We will have a special launch in June, probably virtual with the Taubman Museum with a special guest speaker.

*Artemis Journal* has inspired creativity and fellowship for people of all backgrounds in the region for over 40 years. *The Journal* serves thousands of people in Virginia's Blue Ridge and across the globe with its features of up-and-coming artists and writers, as well as award-winning artists. Since its origination in 1977, *Artemis Journal* has been an advocate for social justice and highlights all deserving artists and writers.

If you live in the Western part of the commonwealth and would like to be an active part of the Poetry Society of Virginia, please feel free to contact me, so we can connect.

## ARTICLE

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### MISTAKES WRITERS MAKE: Are You Trying to Write for Everyone?

by Sharon Canfield Dorsey

**WHO IS YOUR TARGET AUDIENCE?** Common sense may tell you the best audience is the largest audience, so therefore, write for everyone. However, writing for everyone is really writing for nobody.

**THINK OF IT THIS WAY...** If you're writing non-fiction, perhaps a presidential biography, you wouldn't include history of the automobile. If you're writing fiction, a novel for readers who want light-hearted romance wouldn't mix in edge-of-your-seat horror. Even if it started one way and ended the other, you couldn't maintain both throughout. You would lose both types of readers. If you are a new writer, it's okay to start out without any comprehension of who your audience will be. But when you want to get published, you must figure out who your readers are.

**TRY THIS...**

- Identify where your book would be shelved in a bookstore or library. If it doesn't seem to fit into a category, perhaps your premise is too vague and your story needs to take another direction.
- Identify the age of your readers. Are you writing for children? Young adults? Parents? Retirees?
- Pinpoint your audience. If you're writing science fiction, for instance, is it space travel? Time travel? Mystery?

**CAN YOU DEFINE YOUR POETRY STYLE?** Like fiction and non-fiction, poetry also comes in many styles. What is yours? Styles vary from lyrical to activist to humorous, and the list goes on. Some of us focus on form poetry while others prefer free verse. We can try on a variety of styles, but most of us eventually recognize our strengths and that becomes our brand. You know you've secured that brand when someone reads a poem and says, "That sounds like . . ."

**STUDY THE COMPETITION...** What's out there? Where is there a need? The author of a book of poetry prompts identified a need for a fun prompt book specifically for poets. The goal was to write a book for people who would not only accept but celebrate the use of words like "poeming" as a verb. That's a specific audience, and that audience guided the process of writing and marketing the book.

**TAKE THE TIME** to figure out who YOUR readers are. It will make it much easier to get your book in their hands.

**NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:** Please send articles, announcements, and poetry to share with your fellow PSV members. Your work may be unpublished or previously published, but if necessary, don't forget to include an acknowledgement. Remember to include a brief bio for the Contributors' page, and keep work apolitical and family friendly. Please send to [janhoffpoetry@gmail.com](mailto:janhoffpoetry@gmail.com). The deadline for the July newsletter is June 15. Please note that it's a tremendous challenge when everyone waits until the deadline, so the sooner you can send me something, the better.

Thanks so much.

~Jan Hoffman

## POEMS

**Spring 2021**

by Nancy C. Allen

Soft sounds of spring fill the air  
 Like a butterfly spreading its wings  
 With praise against the limpid sky,  
 perfectly poised,  
 amazingly graceful,  
 breathing the green odor of spring.

A slight warm breeze whispers through  
 the budding trees,  
 through the olive-green blades of grass,  
 like the presence of joy.

For a moment,  
 the quiet sound of the butterfly's bright  
 green wings can almost be heard,  
 sailing across the sky.  
 Seedlings burst forth into newborn buds.

Nesting birds sing joyfully.

Dragonflies sparkle yellow green on swift-  
 flowing streams.

Somewhere in the distance,  
 the voice of a blue jay is heard and  
 it stills the mind  
 like the song of spring.  
 It is a butterfly song,  
 brighter than the sky,  
 simply beautiful,  
 remarkable as the butterfly itself.  
 A song to hold beyond tomorrow.

**The City of Sodom**

by Jacqueline Jules

Abraham was not Noah,  
 content to save his family  
 while everyone else drowned.

Abraham argued for Sodom.

Is this justice from the Judge  
 of the world, that the righteous  
 be dealt the same blow as the guilty?

Abraham bargained.

Will you save Sodom  
 for 50 innocent lives?

**The Thing About The Eye**

by Donna Isaac

The thing about the eye,  
 its fragility, its viscousness,  
 the risks are many--tears or tears,  
 darkening, myopia, short-sightedness.

A girl in second grade wore thick glasses  
 her name was Tina Tonatore.

Kids rhymed her name with *dinosaur*.

The cool kids in the back of the bus  
 were the worst and the ride was long.

On weekends there were movie matinees.

Black kids sat in the theater balcony and poured Pepsi  
 and popcorn on white kids down below.

We didn't think much about it.

We wanted to see a movie or cartoon,  
 the one where the mouse harasses the cat  
 or the roadrunner flattens the coyote.

We knew very little,  
 thought we were angels like those on holy cards.

Tina usually walked home by herself,  
 the neighborhoods deemed safe

though once a man chased my brother and me  
 late at night home from the public park.

I tried on my friend's glasses and everything went blurry,  
 we didn't see much right in front of us.

What about 45?

40? 30? 20? 15?

In the end, they settled.

Ten decent souls  
 could save an entire city.

And Sodom was lacking even that.

A fact to remember  
 the next time I question  
 if the compassion  
 of one person counts.

## An Imperfect Springtime

by Mark Hudson

I went through such a hassle to renew the lease on my apartment, you wouldn't believe it. I barely renewed my lease, and I really thought I was going to have to move.

I thought, "If I can just renew my lease, it will be springtime, and everything will be okay."

Well, I renewed my lease, thank God. But then, while running to catch a bus, I fell on the cement, and had to go to the emergency room. I've been recovering indoors ever since.

I live on the second floor, and two sets of neighbors have moved out.

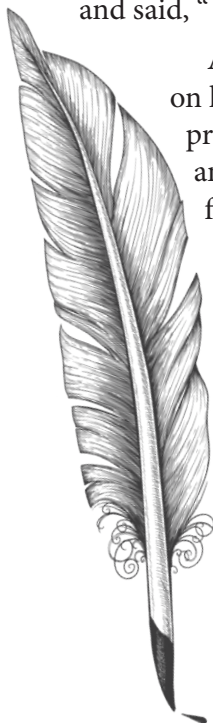
There was a married couple with two dogs and they moved out.

Then there were two friendly college graduated girls from Indiana, who had a great dog too. They moved back home. The second floor has been rather quiet.

A long time neighbor had the most wonderful dog in the building. Yesterday, he got in the elevator, and said, "My dog passed away."

And I could see the sorrow on his face. I said, "You're in my prayers." Then I went to my unit, and really did pray, and cried for his dog.

I live on my own, God is with me, in this lonely season of spring.



## Eventide Bereavement

by Ed Lull

As darkness shrouds my lonely life again and waves of sadness reach into my soul, my broken heart views loss as its domain and wonders if it ever can be whole.

My active life was always wrapped in her; I gloried in the thought that she was mine. Our silent times together - now a blur; I sipped her presence like the finest wine.

The future, always bright, engulfed in fog, those things that brought us joy now pass me by. Our children join in prayerful dialogue; rebuilding may just be a goal too high.

My inner self refuses to retire; new challenges I don't expect to start. So I'll continue what life may require; but understand what's missing in my heart

## A Fear of Rhyme

by Daly Hoffman

Sometimes I struggle writing, be it poetry or not.

I am too used to free verse typing, a fluid train of thought.

I find rhyme schemes daunting, afraid to give it a go.

Be it a sonnet, triolet, or something, I avoid it with a, "No."

Get over yourself, man!  
Do you not want to improve?  
Tell yourself that you can,  
and make your brain gears move.

Read some Shakespeare, some Poe,  
some Frost, and some Tennyson.  
Use these greats, or even mo',  
get your 10,000 hours in.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# Annual Poetry Society Festival

## 2021

To the Membership of the Poetry Society of Virginia:

**Our Annual Festival and Membership Meeting will be held on Zoom on May 29.**

Notices will be emailed and posted on our website and social media.

Our first order of the day is to vote on proposed bylaws with changes. Most of the changes deal with the terms/length of office. Some were rewording of duplicate concepts or confusing explanations. Below is the section of our bylaws that details the procedure. The second item will be to vote for a slate of board members. After that, the festival begins!

### Section 5. Board Elections

The President and all Regional Vice Presidents shall be elected by the general membership present during the annual meeting of the Society and shall serve as members of the Board as well as officers of the Society. The Governance Committee shall present nomination for new and renewing Board members in this category to the membership at least one month prior to the annual meeting.

Please take the time to read the bylaws so that you can vote on May 29.

### ***Welcome to the other side of the Pandemic.***

*While we may have some time to go, perhaps the light at the end of the tunnel is that thing right up there: the foreseeable future.*

*In honor of our ever present, yet just out of reach friend: the future,*

**The theme for POET'S DOMAIN volume 35 shall be**

***The future is a kaleidoscope of dimensions,  
turning over colorful possibilities***

As before, we don't want to dictate how the poet interprets the idea, SO I will remind you just to ...

**think literally,**

think metaphorically,

*think synonyms,*

think philosophically,

think concrete,

think abstract,

think of what you *thought* would happen,

think of what you *still think* will happen,

***think of how the future looked to your past, and to yourself now,***

think of how wide the possibilities of the future can be,

think woulda-coulda-shoulda,

think "I WILL!",

think of all the things that *haven't* happened

– \* the editors' meeting \* yielded this topic after talk of the promise of jet packs and flying cars, and how many Sci-fi movies thought we'd be living on the Moon, heading to Mars and Jupiter, curing all diseases and transcending death ...  
... by about 22 years ago.

If you wish to throw in a brief statement as to why you think your entry addresses the theme, sure, why not?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Poet's Domain accepts only original poetry submissions from residents of Virginia or any state bordering it, individuals having significant dealings within or formerly living in Virginia, PSV members, or anyone who previously contributed to the journal. The reading/entry fee is \$5 for 1 poem, \$3 each for additional poem for up to FIVE submissions. Secretly you can send in a sixth item for consideration for free, but don't tell no one, yo, it's a bonus for reading all the stuff here. There is a maximum length per entered item of 4 pages typed (12pt., 8x11), below that any style, form or voice of poem shall be considered. English is the assumed language of the journal, but poems with mixed language will be considered. Submissions open on March 15, 2021 and close July 31, 2021 at midnight.

Each accepted contributor shall receive one complimentary copy of vol. 35 with a postcard upon which they may vote for their favorite piece from that issue. The winning poem will be acknowledged with a certificate and \$50 prize. Additional copies will be available to contributors at a discount.

Please notify at time of submission if a poem has been submitted elsewhere (and where) or previously published. Simultaneous submission or re-publication can be done with coordination with other source.

Submissions should be .doc, .docx, .dot, .rtf, .odt, .xml or .pdf attached to an email titled Poets Domain 34 to HRACandWPP@outlook.com. The body of the email may contain text of the poetry, too, but it's unnecessary. Payment may be made in the form of check/M.O., CashApp transfer, paypal.com transfer to friend/family, or Credit Card through paypal.



### **Christopher Newport University's 39th Annual Writers Conference Virtual One-Day Event Saturday, May 22, 2021**

*Join us for our very first virtual Writers Conference!*

This one-day event includes various workshops and a panel discussion and offers an opportunity for writers to learn from agents, editors, publishers, the best of authors, poets, professional teachers, and each other.

Keynote speaker, Rita Simms Quillen, will explore the idea of experimenting with your writing material across multiple genres in various ways in order to discover and develop source material to its fullest potential.

#### **NEW WEBMASTER FOR PSV!**

My name is Steven Dorsey, and I'm honored to be the new webmaster for the Poetry Society of Virginia. I grew up in Williamsburg where I played in the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes and Drums Corps and graduated from Lafayette High School. I went on to graduate with a Bachelor's Degree from Christopher Newport and a Master's Degree from ODU. I spent 20 years as a Federal Background Investigator spending lots of time conducting interviews, writing reports, and working with numerous IT systems. At the end of 2019, I made the jump into copywriting, web design, and website management working alongside Jeanne Johansen and High Tide Publications and hand in hand with their authors and artists, including my mom, Sharon Dorsey.

I am currently living in the middle of horse country in central Kentucky with my wife and 3 kids and come back to visit family and friends in Virginia as often as possible. I love what I do and am always available if anyone has any questions or suggestions for the site. Just feel free to contact me at [steven.dorsey@stevendorsey.com](mailto:steven.dorsey@stevendorsey.com). I can also work with you personally if you're interested in creating a site of your own. Thank you again for this opportunity. I am looking forward to working closely with the Society moving forward.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Jack Callan and Friends** announces our 2020 Ensemble Performances, a little late, but right on time, like a vaccination. Our theme for 2020, yes, 2020, is "Courage: To Speak the Truth." Our poets from around the state are **Gina Woodfin, Katherine Chantal, Coral Kendall, Judith Stevens, and Jack Callan**. Their poems, written across the past year, are both diverse and poignant. Musical accompaniment will be provided by Jim Best. For your safety, masks and gloves are requested, as well as social distancing.

WHEN: Saturday, May 8, 2021

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Open Mic to follow

WHERE: Outside/Backyard

2931 Somme Avenue

Norfolk, Virginia 23509

For information: Call Jack and Judith at 622-8721

In addition, other performances are planned in the warmth of Spring, outdoors, with masks and social distancing at The Fairmount Five Readings, Norfolk, and for Saturday, June 5, at The Little River Poetry Festival in Floyd, Virginia. We hope to schedule a third performance at Norfolk's Chrysler Museum when our Open Mic resumes. As in past performances, there will be musical accompaniment.

As the pandemic thrives, we will fine tune our production, and when it is safe, poetry may be our salvation. For information, contact Jack Callan at (757) 622-8721 or email [knuckleheadpoet@yahoo.com](mailto:knuckleheadpoet@yahoo.com)

## VENUES

\* **Busboys & Poets** on Instagram @busboysandpoets (ask about other formats, has been done on Zoom, too.) Every Mon. Weds and Fri., (usually \$5.) [www.busboysandpoets.com](http://www.busboysandpoets.com). 8-10 PM

\* **Venue on 35th Monday Night Open Mic** Virtual for now. Contact Jorge Mendez or James Cooper on Facebook for Zoom info. 7:30

\* **CIPHER** Tuesdays Tuesday nights at 8/8:30 Please contact Quinton Jennings-Sherman on Facebook. He also goes by Q5 at #Q5TV. May involve a \$5 donation. 8pm

\* Richmond's **Poetry Social Hour**: Contact Joanna Lee to see if they are virtual and find out how to get your spot at [joanna@rivercitypoets.com](mailto:joanna@rivercitypoets.com), Typically Mon. afternoons...

\* Richmond's **Jazz and Wine Tasting** may go virtual+IRL depending on the situation and the host restaurant (C'est la Vin, 17th St.). Contact the hostess with the mostess, [joanna@rivercitypoets.com](mailto:joanna@rivercitypoets.com)

\* Richmond also has a **poetry writing/critique group** almost every Monday at 6:30 that is virtual until such time as their cafe homes open up... also write Joanna at [joanna@rivercitypoets.com](mailto:joanna@rivercitypoets.com) for that information.

\* **All the Feels** open mic through Google Meet for all the lovers and the loners out there! Associated with Richmond's Blue Bee. If you want to get on the mic contact the hostess [joanna@rivercitypoets.com](mailto:joanna@rivercitypoets.com) and plan on 4-5 minutes of material. Link to event:

<https://sable.madmimi.com/c/3946?id=38787.3937.1.974ddc9d27152feccd96c9b8f3e2fd28>

\* **Charlottesville Open Mic (Over the Bridge?)** takes place on the 4th Weds. each month. Contact Patsy Asuncion for exact time and for the way in.

\* See links for dates, 6:30 pm. **Spilled Ink East & West** Virtual reading hosted by John Dutton. Check Facebook at Spilled Ink (Virginia). Spilled Ink East takes place the 2nd Friday of each month, and Spilled Ink West takes place the 4th Friday of each month.

Data: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SpilledInkVA>

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81108116410?pwd=M3Rac2JobGM5NTJwY2p0dFNGQW55Zz09> Meeting ID: 811 0811 6410, Passcode: 87613

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *continued*

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### REAL LIVE HUMAN Events

Plans are developing for the Venue on 35th St's **Annual PoetFest** to be held virtually. Instead of one day in April, it will be every Saturday. Instead of 12 hours, it will involve 1-2 events broadcast in the evening between 1.5 and 3 hours. Check Venue on 35th and FB sites.

Little River Poetry Festival

June 4-6 in Floyd, Va.

Several events each day, into the night

Drop-ins welcome \$15/day

[www.littleriverpoetryfestival.com](http://www.littleriverpoetryfestival.com)

- 757-622-8721

Care to share poems honoring our late PSV president, Jeff Hewitt, for an anthology? Please send your poems and tributes for Jeff to the following email: [wearevasthanthology@gmail.com](mailto:wearevasthanthology@gmail.com).

### Call to PSV Poets!

One way you can celebrate your poetry and your connections to the poetry community is to help out with causes and committees from within your poetry. Here are three things that spring to mind that allow for some opportunities to help from within the PSV:

Helping with the pilot program to recruit Poetry Student Ambassadors, several from within each region to help carry the call to write forward to coming generations of potential poets. This is just forming under the guidance of VA Poet Laureate Luisa Igloria, so initial contact may involve her taking down information and your expression of interest or ideas for nominees. Contact [luisa.igloria61@gmail.com](mailto:luisa.igloria61@gmail.com)

Ed Lull is starting procedures to create a centennial anthology of poetry from PSV writers – a snapshot of poetry from contemporary society members to pass on to the next era of PSVers. Committees and contributions will be organized at the regional level, so please contact your regional VP to express interest in helping organize the effort or to contribute poetry. The contest committee helps to organize the society's annual contests which is a big fundraiser for the PSV AND an opportunity for Virginia poets to get seen, noticed, and recognized. Things the Contest committee members work towards are as follows:

- Help propose and select judges
- Help designate the categories
- Collect poems and separate them by categories
- Distribute poems to judges

Please contact Terry Cox-Joseph at [tcxjoseph@aol.com](mailto:tcxjoseph@aol.com). Work begins in earnest around the July PSV meeting, but it's never too early to express interest.

Election committee: Next PSV elections are in Spring of 2022. We will need to find qualified & interested candidates for a number of positions, disseminate information about them to the appropriate regions and gather votes for tally. Contact [HRACandWPP@outlook.com](mailto:HRACandWPP@outlook.com) – James Wilson

### Centennial Anniversary Anthology

In May of 2023, PSV will be celebrating its 100th birthday. Among the plans to honor this significant event will be the publication of a Centennial Anniversary Anthology. All members of the Poetry Society of Virginia will be offered the opportunity to submit poems for consideration to be included in this celebratory volume. Development of the anthology has begun with the appointment of the Centennial Anthology Committee, chaired by Ed Lull. Updates, including submission instructions, will be published in subsequent newsletters.

### MEMBERSHIP

Have you paid your membership dues this year? See our PSV website for details:

<https://poetrysocietyofvirginia.org/membership/>

MEMBER NEWS

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**Barbara Blanks** asks that you check out her new books: *Out of My Mind* at <https://tinyurl.com/yckg9fny> & *World You Look At That!*-- <https://tinyurl.com/y3szvngh>  
*Resisting the Ground*--winner of Alabama State Poetry Society 2020 Book of the Year Award.  
 "Books make great gifts! Especially mine!" <http://barbara-blanks.com/>

**Cathy Hailey's** poem, "500,000" was published in *The New Verse News* on Feb. 25, 2021. You can read it at this link: <https://newversenews.blogspot.com/2021/02/500000.html>. In addition, 5 of her poems— "Uncovering Heritage," "A Doll and a Dream," "Childhood Escape," "Pinball Lord," and "October 29, 2012"— were accepted for publication in the New Jersey anthology *Stay Salty: Life in the Garden State, Volume 2*, which will be released in Oct. Cathy is PSV's very busy VP for the Northern Region of the Commonwealth.

**Chapman Hood Frazier's** collection of poems, *The Lost Books of the Bestiary*, was a runner up in the V Press LC 2020 poetry book contest and will be published this June. The central poem in the collection, "Bestiary," was also accepted by *The Southern Poetry Review* and will be published in their forthcoming spring issue. His poem, "Rifling Through the Ruins" was nominated for a Pushcart Poetry Prize by V Press LC and was published in *Running with Water* edited by TorieAmarie Dale along with two other poems of his, "The Ghost of Things" and "In the Wide Room." Frazier's poetry website will be launched this spring. Many of the poems in *The Lost Books of the Bestiary* have won awards in PSV contests throughout the years.

**Donna Isaac's** poem "Circle Dance" has been chosen First Place in Category III of the Arizona State Poetry Society's Annual Contest. Her poem "Costumes" is scheduled for *Midway Journal's* (15:2), which will go live on April 15, 2021, on <http://midwayjournal.com/>, and three poems—"Watching On Golden Pond Again," "Flight," and "Easter"—were accepted for publication by Before Your Quiet Eyes Publishing in *Moving Images: Poetry Inspired by Cinema* in Feb. Her poem "End of November" will be featured on Sunday Morning Lyricity, March 21: <https://lyricity.org/category/sunday-morning/>.

**Jacqueline Jules's** first full-length poetry book, *Manna in the Morning*, was released by Kelsay Books in Spring 2021. These poems examine biblical figures through the lens of modern times, extracting insights from the lives of people portrayed as more complex than their worst moment or their best. Katherine E. Young, Poet Laureate Emerita of Arlington, offered advance praise for *Manna in the Morning*: "Jules explores contemporary faith with nuance and sensitivity, braiding together the ancient world and twenty-first century. She's particularly interested in the roles women play in the Biblical texts and brings a lively feminist sensibility to her poems." For more information, please visit <https://metaphoricaltruths.blogspot.com/>

**Miko Marsh**, PSV member, has been awarded a fellowship to attend Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing. Although she didn't receive a first or second place prize in their competition, her work impressed the institute fellows, so she was offered a fellowship to attend their week-long conference to study under writers such as Adrian Matejka (poet and author).

**Joan Mazza's** poem "Enumerator" is in the current issue (Spring 2021) of *Evening Street Review*. She has two poems—"Season of No" and "Pilgrimage"—reprinted at *Verse-Virtual*. <http://www.verse-virtual.org/2021/March/mazza-joan-2021-march.html> In addition, her poem "Asking the Eye Surgeon" is forthcoming in *The MacGuffin*. For her poem "Spare Me," see <https://postscriptmagazine.org/content/spare-me> For Joan's site, see [JoanMazza@gmail.com](mailto:JoanMazza@gmail.com).

**Mike Maggio** hosted 30 poets on his website, [www.mikemaggio.net](http://www.mikemaggio.net), one each day of the month of April for National Poetry Month. An elegy he wrote was presented on the Rensselaerville Library in Albany, NY, site <https://www.rensselaervillelibrary.org/poetry-month-2021.html>. His work was also featured at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library in Fredericksburg via <https://librarypoint.bibliocommons.com/events/60133811fcdafa73020b3f03> and at a reading from his forthcoming book, *Let's Call It Paradise* (see <https://mikemaggio.net/events/river-road-reading-series/>).

**Patrice Wilkerson's** poem "Hellacious Times" has been published on *The African Magazine* website. Here is a link to her poem: <https://www.myafricanmagazine.com/hellacious-times/>

## CONTRIBUTORS

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**Nancy Allen**, a retired elementary teacher of over thirty years, enjoys writing poetry. She began writing poetry as a hobby and has been published in *Scholastic Classroom Magazine*. It is wonderful to celebrate the spring season once again. It's a warm embrace with so many lovely shades of green that it brought inspiration for her poem, "Spring 2021."

**Sharon Canfield Dorsey** is an award-winning poet and author of four children's books; a memoir, *Daughter of the Mountains*; a travel memoir, *Road Trip*; and two books of poetry, *Tapestry* and *Walk with Me*. She is a member of the James City Poets, and her poems are also included in their anthology, *Captured Moments*. Her books are available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and High Tide Publications.

**Daly Hoffman**, a junior at Regent University, is an English major with a concentration in mythology and folklore. He is an active member of Sigma Tau Delta International Honor Society in English, Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology, and the C.S. Lewis Club, as well as being a student member of the Poetry Society of Virginia. In his spare time, Daly enjoys playing guitar and writing both fiction and poetry.

**Mark Hudson** joined the Poetry Society of Virginia two or three years ago to participate in the contests. One of the benefits he received was that one year he got to put some poetry in a Local Gems book that only certain people could do. Mark lives in Evanston, Illinois, and can be reached at markhudson757@yahoo.com.

**Donna Isaac** is a poet, teaching artist, and organizer of community readings (Literary Lights) and workshops through the League of MN Poets. She holds degrees from James Madison University, the University of Minnesota, and Hamline University. Published poetry work includes Footfalls (Pocahontas Press), a paean to an Appalachian upbringing; and chapbooks: *Tommy* (Red Dragonfly Press); *Holy Comforter* (Red Bird Chapbooks); and *Persistence of Vision* (Finishing Line Press). Her work also appears in journals such as *The Saint Paul Almanac* and *The Penn Review*. Her roots are in Virginia though she lives in the cold state of Minnesota. <donnaisaacpoet.com>.

**Jacqueline Jules** is the author of three chapbooks and *Manna in the Morning* (Kelsay Books, 2021). Her poetry has appeared in over 100 publications, including *Paterson Literary Review*, *The Broome Review*, *Sow's Ear Poetry Review*, *Hospital Drive*, and *Imitation Fruit*. She is also the author of 50 books for young readers, including a poetry collection, *Tag Your Dreams: Poems of Play and Persistence*. Visit <https://metaphoricaltruths.blogspot.com/>. Her poem, "City of Sodom" appears in her collection *Manna in the Morning*.

**Ed Lull** graduated from the Naval Academy in 1955 and began a navy career where he served primarily in submarines. He earned an M.S. from The George Washington University in 1969. Lull began writing poetry in retirement; he has published seven books: *Cabin Boy to Captain*; *Where Giants Walked*; *The Sailors*; *Bits and Pieces*; *Creating Form Poetry*; *My World*; and *My Game of Life*. He is a life member of the Poetry Society of Virginia having served four terms as its president. Ed's tribute to his late wife Evelyn, "Eventide Bereavement," is being published in San Antonio's LONE STARS #95, *Light of the Stars*.

## 2021 PSV Annual Contest Winners

### Category 1 Edgar Allan Poe contest/Judge: Gregory Donovan

1st Place: "Letting Go"

**Donna Isaac**

Inver Grove Hts., MN

2nd Place: "Domestic Drama on Lake Iroquois"

**M. Lee Alexander**

Williamsburg, VA

3rd Place: "Love Poem for Chieko\*: with cento"

**William Prindle**

Charlottesville, VA

Hon. Mention: "The House of Metaphor"

**Pamela Cranston**

Oakland, CA

### Category 2 Sarah Lockwood Memorial/Judge Thomas Yuill

1st Place: "More"

**Julia Travers**

Gordonsville, VA

2nd Place: "Marry Me"

**Edward Wright Haile**

Champlain, VA

3rd Place: "A Parting Shot"

**Ruth Holzer**

Herndon, VA

Honorable Mention: "A Rock for the Hill"

**Elizabeth Spragins**

Fredericksburg, VA

# WINNERS

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## Category 3 Bess Gresham/Judge Catherine Fletcher

1st Place: "Virtual, in This Lonely Space"

**Erin Newton Wells**  
Charlottesville, VA

2nd Place: "By a Kenyan Campfire"

**Sarah E N Kohrs**  
Mt Jackson VA

3rd Place: "Radiant Lake"

**William Prindle**  
Charlottesville, VA

## Category 4 Carleton Drewry Memorial/Judge Lisa Russ Spaar

1st Place: "Clearing Wood"

**Stuart Gunter**  
Schuyler, VA

2nd Place: "Picking Asparagus"

**Donna Isaac**  
Inver Grove Hts., MN

3rd Place: "Southside Pastoral"

**William Prindle**  
Charlottesville, VA

Honorable Mention: "Carter Johnston: Redwing, 1888"

**Katharyn Howd Machan**  
Ithaca, NY

Honorable Mention: "After a Summer Rain"

**Sarah E N Kohrs**  
Mt Jackson VA

Honorable Mention: "Manure"

**Erin Newton Wells**  
Charlottesville, VA

Honorable Mention: "Woman Grassfire Woman"

**Michele Privette**  
Norfolk VA

## Category 5 Brodie Herndon Memorial/Judge Nathan Richardson

1st Place: "University Village: Etudes"

**William Prindle**  
Charlottesville, VA

2nd Place: "The Navajo Code Talkers"

**Jerri Hardesty**  
Brierfield, AL

3rd Place: "The Picture Not Published"

**Claudia Gary**  
Reston, VA

Honorable Mention: "The Bridge"

**Dennis H. Pillsbury**  
Williamsburg, VA

## Category 6 Nancy Byrd Turner Memorial/Judge Henry Hart

1st Place: "Amyrah Gray Young: Redwing, 1888"

**Katharyn Howd Machan**  
Ithaca, Ny

2nd Place: "Chinatown Sonnet"

**JM Jordan**  
Alexandria, Virginia

## Category 7 Cenie Moon Prize/Judge Luisa Igloria

1st Place: "Oracle of Bronzeville Meets Herself"

**Erin Newton Wells**  
Charlottesville, VA

2nd Place: "Taco King"

**Donna Isaac**  
Inver Grove Hts., MN

3rd Place: "Rowing Lessons"

**Linda Mitchell**  
Manassas, VA

## Category 8 Judah, Sarah, Grace and Tom Memorial/Judge James Wilson

1st Place: "Pretense"

**Ellaraine Lockie**  
Sunnydale, CA

\*2nd Place: "Where Should I Walk"

**Tom Jenkins**  
Chester, VA

\*2nd Place: "Explode Like Lightning Striking"

**Pamela Brothers Denyes**  
Virginia Beach, VA

3rd Place: "Ashes Remain"

**Chaya Nachum**  
Brooklyn, NY

Honorable Mention: "Question of Castaways"

**Crickyt J. Meyer**  
Chesapeake, VA

## Category 9 Ada Sanderson Memorial/Judge Ron Smith

1st Place: "A Thing Nearly Perfect"

**Sharon Ackerman**  
Charlottesville, VA

2nd Place: "Looking at the Floor at Saratoga Friends Meeting House"

**Andy Fogle**  
Saratoga Springs, NY

3rd Place: "September Apples"

**Katharyn Howd Machan**  
Ithaca, Ny

Honorable Mention: "Morels"

**Stuart Gunter**  
Schuyler, VA

Honorable Mention: "April"

**Amanda Sue Creasey**  
Chester, VA

Honorable Mention: "April Fancy"

**Tony Linwood Gentry**  
North Chesterfield, VA

Honorable Mention: "In the Long Suffering for Water"

**Erin Newton Wells**  
Charlottesville, VA

Honorable Mention: "Strawberry Fields Forever"

**Ellie White**  
Charlottesville, VA

## WINNERS *continued*

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### Category 10 Charlotte Wise Memorial/Judge Rita Quillen

1st Place- "Vernal Equinox"

**Sharon Ackerman**  
Charlottesville, VA

2nd Place - "I Want You to Come Back But Only If You're Full"

**Coral Kendall**  
Norfolk, VA

3rd Place- "Death, Burning & Service"

**Andy Fogle**  
Saratoga Springs, NY

Honorable Mention - "Sanctuary"

**Erin Newton Wells**  
Charlottesville, VA

### Category 11 Robert S. Sergeant Memorial/Judge Mike Maggio

1st Place: "Weathering"

**Rebecca K. Leet**  
Arlington, VA

2nd Place: "In a Dogwood Tree"

**Deborah H. Baxter**  
Chesapeake, VA

3rd Place: "Irrepressible Wren"

**Henrietta Dahlstrom**  
Falls Church, VA

### Category 12 Anne Spencer Memorial/Judge John Hoppenthaler

1st Place: "Ode to the Young Construction Worker Who Once Placed a Loaded Nail Gun against His Forehead and Pulled the Trigger."

**Robert J. Keeler**  
Vashon, WA

2nd Place: "Aftermath"

**Katherine M. Gotthardt**  
Bristow, VA

3rd Place: "Formed like an Etching."

**Sarah E N Kohrs**  
Mt Jackson VA

Honorable Mention: "Snowfall, January 19, 2008: Viewing Richard C. Isner's 'Cold Storage' After My Uncle's Death."

**Adele Gardner**  
Newport News, VA

### Category 13 Handy Andy Prize/Judge Bill Glose

1st Place to "An Invitation to the Masked Corona Ball"

**Erin Newton Wells**  
Charlottesville, VA

2nd Place to "The Great Toilet Paper Caper"

**Sharon Canfield Dorsey**  
Williamsburg, VA

3rd Place: "Office Hours"

**Katharyn Howd Machan**  
Ithaca, NY

Honorable Mention: "New Arrival"

**Hannah Peters**  
Fairfax, VA

### Category 14 Elizabeth Neuwirth Memorial/Judge Suzanne Rhodes

1st Place: "Day of Wind" based on Andrew Wyeth's Pentecost

**Erin Newton Wells**  
Charlottesville, VA

2nd Place: "Garien Swift: Redwing, 1888"

**Katharyn Howd Machan**  
Ithaca, NY

3rd Place: "Christina's World" based on Andrew Wyeth's Christina's World

**Doris Edmund McGehee**  
Palmyra, Virginia

### Category 15 Laura Day Boggs Bolling Memorial/Judge Sue Corbett

1st Place: "Night is a Dark Unguarded Grove"

**J. M. Jordan**  
Alexandria, Virginia

2nd Place: "The Summer of the Secret Stones"

**Erin Newton Wells**  
Charlottesville, VA

3rd Place: "Frog Prince"

**Donna Isaac**  
Inver Grove Hts., MN

Honorable Mention: "Natural Imagination"

**Leo Emerson**  
Marina Del Rey, CA

### Category 16 Joe Pendleton Campbell Memorial/Judge Dr. Carrie Shipers

1st Place: "She Whispers How It Ends"

**Erin Newton Wells**  
Charlottesville, VA

2nd Place: "When They Left the Cottage Behind"

**Katharyn Howd Machan**  
Ithaca, NY

3rd Place: "Bessie"

**Greg Friedmann**  
Ashburn, VA

### Category 17 Raymond Levi Haislip Memorial/Judge Dr. Kathleen D. Decker

1st Place: "Catheter Ablation"

**Claudia Gary**  
Reston, VA

2nd Place: "New and Repurposed Words"

**Joan Ellen Casey**  
Newport News, VA

3rd Place: "My Right Hand Man"

**Brigitte Dole**  
Sacramento, CA

Honorable Mention: "Hinge Between Two Sticks"

**Erin Newton Wells**  
Charlottesville, VA

**WINNERS****Category 18 Elizabeth J. Urquhart Memorial/Judge Cesca Janece Waterfield**

1st Place: "Thunderstorm on the Zambezi"

**Diana Woodcock**  
Midlothian, VA

2nd Place: "Bem-Vinda a Florianópolis"

**M. Lee Alexander**  
Williamsburg, VA

3rd Place: "Thimble Shoal Light"

**Hank Thompson**  
Norfolk, VA

Honorable Mention: "Bear Clouds"

**Ruth Keally**  
Athens, GA

Honorable Mention: "Personal Salvation"

**James Garrett**  
Williamsburg, VA

Honorable Mention: "Ash Monday"

**Linda Kennedy Partee**  
Williamsburg, VA**Category 19 Joanne Scott Kennedy Memorial: New Voices/Judge Sofia Starnes**

1st Place: "Resistance"

**Drury Wellford**  
Richmond, VA

2nd Place: "Old China"

**Ann Metcalf**  
Alexandria, VA

3rd Place: "We be praying people"

**Trilla Ramage**  
Hampton, VA

Honorable Mention: "The Hunting Clouds"

**Mac Mestayer**  
Williamsburg, Va**Category 20 Honoring Fatherhood/Margaret MacKinnon**

1st Place: "Dutch and Dad"

**Ruth Holzer**  
Herndon VA

2nd Place: "Her Eyes Lit Amber Like a Fox"

**Katharyn Howd Machan**  
Ithaca, NY

3rd Place: "My Father Takes Me to the County Fair"

**Sharon Ackerman**  
Charlottesville, VA

Honorable mention: "Rabbit Skin Glue"

**Erin Newton Wells**  
Charlottesville, VA**Category 21 Ekphrastic Poetry Award/Judge Terry Cox-Joseph**

1st Place: "When all the World," based on a photo, Hands at Cuevas de las Manos

**Sarah E N Kohrs**  
Mt Jackson VA

2nd Place: "Night and Sleep," Mary Lizzie Macomber painting

**Adele Gardner**  
Newport News, VA

3rd Place: "Wonder," (Alice's Adventures)

**Katharyn Howd Machan**  
Ithaca, NY

Honorable Mention: "Against My Will,"

**Michele Privette**  
Norfolk, VA

Honorable Mention: "Old Man in Sorrow,"

**Erin Newton Wells**  
Charlottesville, VA

Honorable Mention: "Devotion and Desire"

**Drury Wellford**  
Richmond, VA**Category 22 Emma Gray Trigg Memorial /Judge Bob Arthur**

1st Place: "These Birds"

**Barbara Leary**  
Purcellville, VA

2nd Place: "Matinee Musicale"

**Ruth Holzer**  
Herndon VA

3rd Place: "The Wind wails the tale to the woman who needs to hear"

**Angela Dribben**  
Java, VA

Honorable Mention: "'Arabian Desert Autumn'"

**Diana Woodcock**  
Midlothian, VA**Category 23 Karma Dean Ogden/Judge Nicole Tong**

1st Place: "Children Picking Raspberries"

**Sharon Ackerman**  
Charlottesville, VA

2nd Place: "Off the Path"

**April J. Asbury**  
Pulaski, VA

3rd Place: "Recent Discovery, Herculaneum"

**Erin Newton Wells**  
Charlottesville, VA

Honorable Mention: "Honeybee"

**Ruth Holzer**  
Herndon VA**Category 24 Loretta Dunn Hall Memorial/Judge Nathaniel Perry**

1st Place Winner: "After"

**Julia Travers**  
Gordonsville, VA

2nd Place: "The Bent Fork"

**Ruth Holzer**  
Herndon VA

3rd Place: "The Diastole's Diaspora"

**Michele Privette**  
Norfolk, VA**Category 25 Undergraduate Poetry Award/Judge Jeffrey Hecker**

1st Place: "Do You Speak Spanish?"

**Porsha M. Allen**  
Richmond, VA

# POETRY SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

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