



# The Muse Messenger

The Newsletter of the Alabama State Poetry Society

May, 2016

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## Musings from the Editors

It's hard to believe that May is here, and we are already one-third of the way through 2016. Even though the first day of spring was March 20th this year, and Easter was in March, the lovely month of May is the one that heralds the spring season for me. Flowers are blooming everywhere, and even my so-not-green thumb is producing a few.

It isn't only flowers that make May special. There's also Mother's Day. In fact, our monthly contest reflects that by challenging poets to "Write the Poem Your Mom Would Write." If you'll see your Mom this month or speak to her, you might want to ask her what she'd say in a poem if she were to write one. If your Mom has passed away, your memories might be the inspiration you need.

Barry's article this month continues his explanation of "automatic writing," and it contains still more suggestions intended to help you get your muse "riled up and writing." If you've decided to take our advice about entering contests, you'll also want to read Rita's article on how to avoid the scams. And if you're wondering what's going to happen at the Alabama Writers' Conclave Conference, you'll find some "teasers" in TK Thorne's article.

Even though some poetry groups suspend meetings through the spring and summer months, there are several that continue. You'll find them in "What's Happening." You'll also find the where and when from groups that are still meeting as well as the Open Mic "Readaround" at the Birmingham Central Library next week.

Some people, who do not have or are not comfortable using email, have not been able to submit to the various features in the *Muse Messenger* or even to send us their "Member

News." If you are one of those people, you may contact us at: **Harry & Rita Moritz, Muse Messenger, P.O. Box 763, Pell City, AL 35125.**

Enjoy the beautiful month of May and write some poetry.

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## The Joys (And Terrors) Of Automatic Writing (Part Two)

~ Barry Marks

*WARNING: See the warning in Part One, which is in the April issue of Muse Messenger. Proceed at your Own Risk.*

In the last issue, we took a look at a technique that requires the writer to turn off his or her brain and simply let the words flow. It is much harder than it looks, of course, so we continue with a couple of additional ways to start writing and let the words flow.

Start with a story and tell it as if you are telling a bedtime story to a six year-old. You can actually start with "Once upon a time" and then add something outrageous. Or try a "What if" format. What if Merlin came back from his ice cave? What if children ran the world? Don't think it out or lay out a plot. Just start writing and try to get through the tale as fast as you can.

Start with a visual image. Something you imagine, dreamed or saw in a magazine or online. Describe it and go from there. Turn that beer commercial into a story and improve on it. Just remember that what you see is just a springboard, an entryway. You are going where your mind leads you, but so fast it doesn't have time to post stop signs.

One of my personal favorites is to not write at all. Start reciting. Say the first part of whatever strikes your fancy out loud. After a few lines, you might

want to start writing and see if you take off. If you have a recording device handy, it can be even more fun to just start babbling.

Years ago, after a...difference of opinion...with the former Mrs. Marks, I drove to Atlanta on business. Around Anniston, I got off I-20 and wrote furiously what I had been saying aloud for the last 20 miles. When I went back and edited it, I only made a couple of word changes and added line breaks. I'm not saying it's any good, but it felt great to get it on paper:

### **Aftermath**

**When you told me to get out, your anger  
punched a hole through our marriage;  
a black spot hung in the air  
in the kitchen, in between us.**

**When I looked to you, it obscured your face.  
so I tried walking to the side, but it was still there,  
a black spot as big as your fist.**

**It made a sucking sound  
and began to grow.**

**My first thought was to find something  
to plug it up, yours, to your credit,  
was for the children, who you loaded into the car  
and drove off, leaving me with the blackness  
as it swelled into the dining room.**

**I ran upstairs for a Bible  
but when I turned around  
it was advancing up the steps and  
it backed me into the bedroom,  
into the closet, into a corner and  
all I could see was black so I knew  
it was on me and I closed my eyes  
and held my breath but I had to  
breathe so I inhaled and when  
I opened my eyes the lights were on  
and everything was back the way it should be.**

**At least that's what I thought,  
damn you,  
until I looked in the mirror.**

Not everybody's cup of tea, of course, but an example. I started saying the entire beginning as I drove; the whole bit about running for the Bible and the ending jumped onto the page as I was writing the first part down. It all took a few minutes from the time I pulled off at the exit to when I was back on the ramp. I didn't expect to like any of it when I got home, but I did.

Why bother? This sort of thing often yields a few great images or turns of phrase, or even plot structures for stories you didn't think you had in you. Every once in a while, the draft itself, with a little work, becomes something worth keeping, but don't think about that as you create it. More than anything else, it is a good way to kick off the shackles that may be making you write *better* but far *less*.

Automatic writing is deliberately being a little crazy and going wild. I had a teacher call it being *word drunk*. I am hoping to present a workshop on this subject at the next Conclave, along with one about editing that should make for an interesting generative session in two parts. It's something you can do at home any time. It may be a waste of time, and it may be something you don't need.

Then again, it might make you remember why you love writing in the first place.

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## **How To Avoid Poetry Contest Scams**

~ Rita Aiken Moritz

(This is Part 2 of Rita's article on contests. Part 3 will appear in the June issue of the *Muse Messenger*.)

"You are one of our Semi-Finalists, and your poem could win \$20,000!" Who wouldn't be excited about getting a letter or an email like that? The sad news, however, is that 50,000 other people received the same letter, and the contest is a scam.

If you've ever been "burned" by one of the vanity poetry presses or a bogus contest, you're not alone. Experts estimate that poetry scam companies make more than ten million dollars a year! That's a \$10 followed by six zeroes!

It isn't always easy to identify them either because some scams disguise themselves with names that are similar to legitimate groups. An example of this is the Academy of Poets ([www.poet.s.org](http://www.poet.s.org)) and

the International Library of Poetry ([www.poetry.com](http://www.poetry.com)). The Academy of Poets is completely legitimate, but it is sometimes confused with the ILP, which has been accused of being a scam. Maybe I'm just a suspicious person, but I doubt the names and URLs being similar is an accident.

Last month, I gave you several valid reason for entering contests, not the least of which are that they're fun and can earn you a little money (emphasis on little). And I haven't changed my mind. However, if we're going to avoid the scams, we need to be cautious. Here are some red flags to watch for:

- No Entry Fee. There are very few legitimate "free" contests. Why? Because there are administrative costs associated with contests, and someone has to pay for those. If entry fees don't, then who does? There are a few groups that do offer "free" entries (Blue Mountain Cards, Reader's Digest, and our own Birmingham Public Library Haiku Contest come to mind), but they are the exception rather than the rule.
- Frequent Contests. How often are contests sponsored by the group? If it's more than once or twice a year, that's a red flag.
- Overly-Flattering Response Letters. When that letter comes telling me I might be the next Billy Collins, alarm bells should start going off. I'm not suggesting you minimize your worth or value, but realize that "flattery" isn't needed if the group is legitimate.
- Additional Fees. If the group asks for fees not mentioned up front, that too is a red flag. Legitimate organizations are businesslike and tell you what the fee is before you submit.
- Short Poems Only. While there are different length restrictions for contests, a group that wants only short poems may be planning an anthology. Guess who's going to pay for that.
- Require Money for Publishing. You should NEVER be asked for money once you have entered the contest. No legitimate contest will charge you a fee to publish or require you to purchase an anthology or anything else.

- Require You Attend a Conference. If the price tag is a large conference fee where the winner will be announced, you should run, not walk, away from it.

Some of those "red flags" aren't obvious until after you've entered the contest. However, you can avoid many of them by asking some questions before you enter a contest. Asking them and then researching to find the answers can save you both money and disappointment.

- Does the contest post guidelines, prizes, and rules?
- Who has won previous contests? Do they list the winners on their website or supply them if asked?
- Do they list the judges either before or after the contest? Are any of them reputable judges, whose names you know? (Be cautious because some scam sites have been known to "borrow" names.)
- Are contest guidelines clear and concise regarding format, what information to include, fees, prizes, judging, cost-free publication, and what rights you may be relinquishing?

One of the surest ways to avoid the scams out there is to enter poetry contests that are sponsored by poetry societies, both our own and others. We make information about those contests available to you through the *Muse Messenger*. It's one of the perks of your ASPS membership. From now through the summer months, I've counted more than 150 categories in various state-sponsored contests. That's enough to keep the most prolific among us busy!

So if you want to "contest," have at it. There are plenty to enter, and your best work may actually place or win a few dollars. And they're fun. Sticking with what you know and entering only contests that are proven to be legitimate will make sure they continue to be fun.

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## Why A Poem Needs A Novel

~ T.K. Thorne

As a novelist, it seems strange to me that the most important lesson I ever learned about writing fiction was in a poetry class. My college roommate refused to go to biology lab, so I promised to take

Poetry 101 with her if she would attend lab with me.

It was brutal.

Some, *ahem*, many years later, I acknowledge that crucible of Poetry 101 made me a far better writer. I learned the importance of choosing the right words as well as how to listen to their rhythm and music. I learned that the music was not just derived from the individual words but also from how they vibrated together and how that vibration tickled or tore or teased the ears and mind of the hearer/reader.

Given this, might the poem learn something from the prose?

At the upcoming Alabama Writers Conclave Writers Conference, noted poets Barry Marks, Shanti Weiland, and Jeannie Thompson will be presenting workshops on poetry—how to stimulate creativity, the unique approach of persona poems, how to edit a poem, and how to incorporate emotion and experience into your poetry.

But why not dip your toe into different waters?

T.J. Beitelman, novelist, poet, and creative writing chair at the Alabama School of Fine Arts, will delve into "Why Beginnings and Endings Are So Important." Most poems I know have a beginning and ending.

Pulitzer prize-winning journalist Joey Kennedy will talk about how to tell the absolute truth and do it creatively. Isn't that what poetry does? And what about a Master Class with successful novelist Barbara Kyle? Can a poem have an Inciting Incident? Reversals and Revelations, Turning Points, a Climax?

Do poets blog? Youbetcha. Javacia Harris Belcher, founder of See Jane Write, will help us build a presence and following on the web. And speaking of the WWW, Megan Carey, award-winning professional designer, will show us how to "Build A Website So They Will Come." Terrified of reading your work aloud or just want to do it justice? Professional speaking coach and award-winning journalist, Donna Francavilla to the rescue. Poems may not need these things, but poets do.

T.K. Thorne is an award-winning novelist at: [tk@kthorne.com](mailto:tk@kthorne.com)

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## Member News for April

**Myra Ward Barra** reports that her poem "Birth of Logan Martin Lake" was published in an article entitled "Poems About Pell City: Writers Anonymous Celebrates National Poetry Month" in the *St. Clair News Aegis*. See: <http://bit.ly/1TKLdo3>.

**Claire T. Feild** has had her poem "Bastille" accepted for print publication in *Literature Today* (India) and her poem "Chenille" accepted for print publication in *Deranged*.

**Urainah Glidewell** reports that her poem "Defiant" was published in an article entitled "Poems About Pell City: Writers Anonymous Celebrates National Poetry Month" in the *St. Clair News Aegis*. See: <http://bit.ly/1TKLdo3>.

**Barry Marks** reports that nominations are being accepted for Alabama Poet Laureate. For more information or to make a nomination, contact Barry at: [barry@markslegal.com](mailto:barry@markslegal.com)

**Harry Moritz** reports that his poem "To Be Like Dad," which won the April *Muse Messenger* monthly contest, was published in an article entitled "Poems About Pell City: Writers Anonymous Celebrates National Poetry Month" in the *St. Clair News Aegis*. See: <http://bit.ly/1TKLdo3>.

**Alina Stefanescu** will be reading a series of poems with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra on May 10th in Birmingham. You can purchase tickets online at: <http://bit.ly/1rSiZix>. She also had a short story, "My Friend, Mia," published by *The Gravity of the Thing*.

**Sue Walker's** book, *Let Us Imagine Her Name*, has been accepted by Clemson University Press.

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## Call for *Muse Messenger* Submissions

What Can I Submit to the *Muse Messenger*?

Our goal as the Editors of the *Muse Messenger* is to make it a "real" member newsletter. That means

we want the content to be focused on, of interest to, and even written by you...the members of ASPS. Here are some of the features that would welcome your submissions:

● **The Monthly Contest.** It's easy to enter, has no entry fee, and is open to ASPS members only. The only requirements are that the poem be unpublished and not have won a prize in any ASPS contest. While there is no monetary prize, the winning poem will be published in the following month's *Muse Messenger*.

● **Member News.** If you've won a contest, had something accepted for publication, hosted a party or done anything else you want other members to know about, let us know. We love hearing about your success and letting others know about it.

● **What's Happening.** Do you have an event planned? A workshop? A conference? If it has value, share it so other members will know about it.

● **Tips & Tools of the Trade.** What writing prompts work for you? What are some common errors to avoid? Put together three or four tips and send them to us. If we can use them, we'll credit you.

● **Articles.** We're always looking for well-written articles about poetry and writing. Articles should be between 300-600 words and should also be crisp, clean copy. Write it, edit it carefully and send it to us.

● **Fillers.** Fillers should be 100-200 words. They can be interesting, informative, or just fun.

Submissions for the monthly contest should go in the body of an email or be attached as an MS Word document and sent to:

contest@musemessenger.org. Put the month and Contest in the subject line. All other submissions should be attached as a Word document and sent by email to: editor@musemessenger.org. Put the feature you are submitting to in the Subject line (i.e. Article, Tips and Tools, etc). If you wish, you may also send your submissions for any section of the *Muse Messenger* using snail mail to: **Muse Messenger, P.O. Box 763, Pell City, AL 35125.**

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## ***Muse Messenger Archives***

Starting in March, 2016, the *Muse Messenger* will only be sent to active members of ASPS. Archived copies of every 2016 *Muse Messenger* will be found online at: <http://musemessenger.com> However, you will need a password in order to access that archive. When you go to the website, you will be asked to submit both a User Name and a Password. They are as follows, and "Case" matters:

User Name = aspsmember  
Password = 1Banana2016

This User Name and Password combination will be used by all paid ASPS members during 2016. The User Name and Password combination will change in January, 2017, and will be sent to members when that change is in place.

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## **Monthly Poetry Contest**

Congratulations to **Lindsey Little** of Pell City, who was the winner of the April *Muse Messenger* Poetry Contest. This contest required that poets use a specific form called the "Butterfly." Lindsey's poem, "Moonlight Mischief," appears below. Thank you to all who entered.

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### **Moonlight Mischief**

When the monarchs droop on branches  
And the coyotes yawn romances,  
Keep honeys close  
And windows closed,  
For the sun beds with sanity  
While the moon harks profanity.

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Information for the May contest is as follows:

Topic: **The Poem Your Mom Would Write**  
(if she wrote poetry)  
Form: **Poet's Choice**  
Line Limit: **Not more than 40**

You may enter this contest by emailing your poem to: contest@musemessenger.org by May 21st. Either attach it as a Word document or put it in the body of the email. You may also submit by snail mail. Your poem must not have been published or

have won in any ASPS contest. The winning poem will appear in the June *Muse Messenger*.

Contest judges are qualified poets, who are not a part of or associated in any way with ASPS. The contest is open to all members except the *Muse Messenger* Contest Chair (Rita), who coordinates the contest and sends entries to the judges. If you have won a 2016 *Muse Messenger* contest, you may not enter another poem in a *Muse Messenger* contest until January, 2017. The complete contest guidelines are online at: <http://bit.ly/1OFF2PE>.

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## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

Nominations are now being accepted for Alabama Poet Laureate. The Laureate will be selected by the Board of the Alabama Writers Conclave in accordance with state law.

Nominees must be Alabama residents. Publication of at least one book is strongly recommended, but consideration will be given to other achievements. Nominee must be prepared to promote poetry throughout the state and demonstrate skill and commitment to poetry.

For information, email Barry Marks, Nominating Committee Chair at: [bm@markslegal.com](mailto:bm@markslegal.com).

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## What's Happening?

**May 3: Gifts of a Wordsmith**, a poetry workshop for adults, meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 6:00 to 7:45 p.m. at the downtown Birmingham Public Library. Email Haruyo Miyagawa at: [hm@hamlib.al.us](mailto:hm@hamlib.al.us) for more information.

**May 5: Writers' Anonymous** meets the first Thursday of every month from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Pell City Recreation Hall, 411 19th Street South in Pell City, AL. For more information, go to: <http://writersanonymous.us>.

**May 10: Gifts of a Wordsmith - Celebratory Readaround**, an evening of poetry for adults to share their accomplishments and invite guests to share their work. From 6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. at the Birmingham Public Library, 2100 Park Place, (Board Room, 4th floor). Free and open to the

public. For more information call 226-3670 or Email Haruyo Miyagawa at: [hm@hamlib.al.us](mailto:hm@hamlib.al.us).

**Bamaslam Montevallo Poetry Slam** will not meet through the summer. They will begin meeting again in September. Email Jerri Hardesty at: [WytRabbi1@aol.com](mailto:WytRabbi1@aol.com) for more information.

**May 14: Pensters Writing Group**, University of South Alabama, 111 St. James St., Rooms 1&2, Fairhope, AL will meet from 10:00-12:00. This will be their last meeting of the 2015-16 season, and it will feature Theresa Lacey, who will give a presentation on Interview Skills. Meetings will resume in September. For more information go to: <http://pensterswritinggroup.com/events/>.

**June 2: Writers' Anonymous** meets the first Thursday of every month from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Pell City Recreation Hall, 411 19th Street South in Pell City, AL. For more information, go to: <http://writersanonymous.us>.

**June 7: Gifts of a Wordsmith**, a poetry workshop for adults, meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 6:00 to 7:45 p.m. at the downtown Birmingham Public Library. Email Haruyo Miyagawa at: [hm@hamlib.al.us](mailto:hm@hamlib.al.us) for more information.

**June 11: Pensters Writing Group** is sponsoring an open mic for members and the public at the Page & Palette Book Cellar, 32 S Section St, Fairhope, AL on Saturday, June 11, from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

**July 15-17: The 2016 Alabama Writers' Conclave Conference** will be at the Alabama School of Fine Arts, 1800 Reverend Abraham Woods Jr. Blvd, Birmingham, AL. For more information and to register, go to: <http://alabamawritersconclave.org/>.

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## Contests, Contests, Contests!

(May/June Contests with Deadlines)

5/15—Chinese Couplet Chop Chop Contest:  
<http://bit.ly/23m0KgJ>

5/15—Poetry Society of New Hampshire:  
<http://bit.ly/1qkkaqh>

5/15 —Ruminate Magazine Janet B. McCabe Poetry Prize:

<http://bit.ly/1rhZT4z>

5/15—The Peseroff Prize:

<http://breakwaterreview.com/peseroffprize>

5/15—Time of Singing Summer Poetry Contest:

<http://timeofsinging.com/contests.html>

5/20—Poetry Society of TN (Members Only)

Submit by May 20th for June:

<http://poetrysocietytn.org>

5/27—Oklahoma Poetry Society Contest:

<http://oklahomapoets.com>

5/31—Alabama: The John and Miriam Morris Memorial Chapbook Competition:

<http://bit.ly/1qq5fKW>

5/31—California: Topic by month and submitted during each month:

<http://bit.ly/1LEi3zR>

5/31—Connecticut Poetry Society Poetry Award:

<http://ctpoetry.net/contests.html>

5/3—Ohio Poetry Day:

<http://ohiopoetryday.blogspot.com>

6/1—St. Louis Writers Guild Deane Wagner: Poetry Contest:

<http://stlwritersguild.org/contests.html>

6/20—Poetry Society of TN (Members Only)

Submit by June 20th for July:

<http://poetrysocietytn.org>

6/30—Blue Mountain Arts:

<http://bit.ly/1SnXf1z>

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## Highlights on State Poetry Societies

This month's "Highlights" include two of our favorites, Ohio and Oklahoma and both of them are running contests right now. Take a minute or two and check them out. In order for a State Poetry Society to be featured, it must have a web presence and allow both out-of-state membership and non-member entries in their contests. Keep in mind that contest deadlines may change. Some may accept outside submissions to their journals.

State:	Dues:	Deadlines:
<b>New Hampshire:</b>	Individual \$25	5/15 & 11/15
Inet:	<a href="http://poetrysocietyofnewhampshire.org">http://poetrysocietyofnewhampshire.org</a>	

**North Carolina:** \$30 January

Inet: <http://ncpoetrysociety.org>

**Ohio:** Regular: \$20 5/31  
Senior: \$15

Inet: <http://ohiopoetryassn.com>

<http://ohiopoetryday.org>  
for "Poetry Day Contests" 5/31

FB: <http://on.fb.me/1Vv1UTb>

**Oklahoma:** \$20 11/30

Inet: <http://oklahomapoets.com>

FB: <http://on.fb.me/1YyrYjN>

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## Publishers and Journals Accepting Submissions

The following publishers and journals are now open for submissions. Be sure to read and follow the submission guidelines provided on each website. Only your very best work should be submitted.

*The Birmingham Arts Journal:*

<http://birminghamartsjournal.com>

*Kudzu House Quarterly:*

<http://kudzuhouse.org>

Negative Capability Press:

<http://negativecapabilitypress.org>

*Penny Magazine:*

<http://youfoundpenny.com>

The Poetry Foundation:

<http://poetryfoundation.org>

*Reader's Digest* 100-word True Story:

<http://rd.com/100-word-stories-submissions>

Tell Us a Story: <http://dfwcon.org>

The Poetry Foundation:

<http://poetryfoundation.org>

**Please Note:** The following have deadlines:

May 15: *5X5 Literary Journal:*

<http://bit.ly/1VJQkZl>

May 30: *Ruminate Magazine:* Chewing on Life, Faith, and Art Janet B. McCabe Poetry Prize:

<http://bit.ly/1rhZT4z>

May 31: Contemporary Haibun Online:

<http://bit.ly/1kkhfFt>

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## Alabama State Poetry Society 2016 Spring Contests

### WINNERS' LIST

1. ALABAMA STATE POETRY SOCIETY SPRING CONTEST (Sponsored by ASPSP) \$75, \$50, \$25, \$10, and 3 Honorable Mentions in order of merit. Any form, Any subject, line limit 60. [65 entries]

1st Place	Susan Martinello, Gulf Shores, AL	<i>Portrait of My Husband as Rome, the Sacred City</i>
2nd Place	Jeanette Willert, Pell City, AL	<i>Awaking</i>
3rd Place	Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX	<i>Four letters, meaning gone</i>
4th Place	Jessica Jones, Orange Beach, AL	<i>Naked Woman in front of the Mirror</i>
1st HM	Alina Stefanescu, Tuscaloosa, AL	<i>Letter to a Little Girl Named After an Existentialist</i>
2nd HM	Rita Aiken Moritz, Pell City, AL	<i>The Day Will Come</i>
3rd HM	Dr. Virginia Gilbert, Madison, AL	<i>Getting the Bones Right, Reunion '65</i>

2. THE DAVID KATO PRIZE, in honor of murdered Ugandan gay activist David Kato (1964-2011) (Sponsored by Jendi Reiter). \$50, \$30, \$20 and Honorable Mentions at Judges discretion. Any form: Subject: Human rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people. No line limit. [9 entries]

1st Place	Christine Riddle, Foley, AL	<i>Delfixio in the Heartland</i>
2nd Place	Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX	<i>Aspiring to Pansies</i>
3rd Place	Lynn Veach Sadler, Burlington, NC	<i>He/She</i>
1st HM	Renee Palmer, Montevallo, AL	<i>Coming Out at 50</i>

3. THE "BEAT PLUS" HUMAN CONDITION AWARD (Sponsored by Dick Teal -- Platosgroove.com) \$50, \$30, \$20, and Honorable Mentions at judge's discretion. Any form, Subject: The 1950's "Beat Generation" of poets lamented our spiritually empty culture. Poets are to take it one step further by writing about the search for answers and meaning. Line limit 40. [32 entries]

1st Place	Stacey Balkun, New Orleans, LA	<i>Tourists Apparently Film a Porno at the Pyramids</i>
2nd Place	Janet Anderson, Huntsville, AL	<i>We Are Called</i>
3rd Place	Kimberly Wright, Prattville, AL	<i>Living tombstone</i>
1st HM	Taney A. Brazeal, Fairhope, AL	<i>As They Are</i>
2nd HM	Renee Palmer, Montevallo, AL	<i>Moses at the End</i>
3rd HM	Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL	<i>Label Me</i>

4. THE "POET'S CHOICE" AWARD (Sponsored by Jeanette Willert) \$40, \$25, \$10 and Honorable Mentions at judge's discretion. Any form, any subject, line limit 50. [56 entries]

1st Place	Rita Aiken Moritz, Pell City, AL	<i>You Are</i>
2nd Place	Lee Pelham Cotton, Locust Hill, VA	<i>Jasper and Lloyd Go Over the Top</i>
3rd Place	Becky Alexander, Ontario, Canada	<i>Waking Dad: Life with an Old Soldier</i>
1st HM	Christine Riddle, Foley, AL	<i>Two something a.m.</i>
2nd HM	Henry Spottswood, Cincinnati, OH	<i>Letters From a Yard Sale</i>
3rd HM	Myra Ward Barra, Pell City, AL	<i>My Husband's Spaghetti</i>

5. THE "BUGS FUNNY" AWARD (Sponsored by Barbara Blanks) \$30, \$15, \$10 and Honorable Mentions at judge's discretion. Any form, Subject: About bugs -- bugs in nature -- or what bugs you. No rants, please. And if you choose to write about what bugs you (even if what bugs you are actual bugs), please write poetically: No lectures, no sermons. Line limit 30 [26 entries]

1st Place	Dalene Stull, Danville, OH	<i>Preserved In Amber</i>
2nd Place	Jeanette Willert, Pell City, AL	<i>Waiting for Him</i>
3rd Place	Lee Pelham Cotton, Locust Hill, VA	<i>Beetle Juice</i>
1st HM	Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR	<i>Afternoon waltz</i>
2nd HM	Janet Anderson, Huntsville, AL	<i>The Great Outdoors</i>
3rd HM	Grady Sue Saxon, Leeds, AL	<i>The Bug</i>

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## Alabama State Poetry Society - 2016 Spring Contests - WINNERS' LIST (Continued)

6. THE "GOOD AND BAD CHANGE" AWARD (Sponsored by Jodi Adamson) \$25, \$15, \$10 and Honorable Mentions at judge's discretion. Any form, Subject: Change [40 entries]

1st Place	Stacey Balkun, New Orleans, LA	<i>Terra Incognita</i>
2nd Place	Jeanette Willert, Pell City, AL	<i>World Gone By</i>
3rd Place	Gail Denham, Survivor, OR	<i>To A Mom Who's Missing The Good Parts</i>
1st HM	Renee Palmer, Montevallo, AL	<i>In Paris, I Am Changing Planes and More</i>

7. THE "MY PARENT'S STORY" AWARD (Sponsored by Myra Ward Barra) \$25, \$15, \$10 and Honorable Mentions at judge's discretion. Any form, Subject: Write a poem about a story your parent (Mother or Father) told about their childhood. Include some emotional detail about your own reaction. [20 entries]

1st Place	Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL	<i>Udderly Ridiculous</i>
2nd Place	Henry Spottswood, Cincinnati, OH	<i>Memories of the Fathers</i>
3rd Place	Mike Wahl, Athens, AL	<i>One Day in May</i>
1st HM	Betty Ivy, Fairhope, AL	<i>Dreams</i>
2nd HM	Janet Anderson, Huntsville, AL	<i>Spain</i>

8. THE "S'IL VOUS PLAIT" AWARD (IF YOU PLEASE) (Sponsored by Antebellum Anne's - Beth Hoyle Waggoner) \$25, \$15, \$10 and Honorable Mentions at judge's discretion. Any French form, Subject: French, they say, is the language of love. Write a love poem about old love, new love, lost love, or unrequited love. Please identify the poetry form you have used. [24 entries]

1st Place	Lee Pelham Cotton, Locust Hill, VA	<i>Fate (Dom Claude's Villanelle)</i>
2nd Place	Karen McAferty Morris, Pensacola, FL	<i>Aubade</i>
3rd Place	LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK	<i>My Lost Love</i>
1st HM	Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX	<i>To My One and Only Valentine</i>
2nd HM	Rita Aiken Moritz, Pell City, AL	<i>I Don't Need You</i>
3rd HM	Jeanette Willert, Pell City, AL	<i>Chanson</i>

9. "THE SKY'S THE LIMIT" AWARD (Sponsored by Harry & Rita Moritz - Precious Prodigal) THIS CATEGORY IS OPEN TO ALABAMA RESIDENTS ONLY \$25, \$15, \$10 and Honorable Mentions at judge's discretion. Any form, Subject: The sun, the moon, the stars, galaxies, and universes. Line limit 32 [22 entries]

1st Place	Renee Palmer, Montevallo, AL	<i>Moon-glow</i>
2nd Place	Jane Allen, Arab, AL	<i>haiku (Moonlight slivers creep)</i>
3rd Place	Kimberly Wright, Prattville, AL	<i>The condoms we'll use on Mars</i>
1st HM	Janet Anderson, Huntsville, AL	<i>Moons Under Wing</i>
2nd HM	Jeanette Willert, Pell City, AL	<i>Stardust</i>
3rd HM	Susan Martinello, Gulf Shores, AL	<i>New York, 1906</i>
4th HM	Dr. Virginia Gilbert, Madison, AL	<i>Earth is a Nice Word</i>

10. THE TRIMERIC AWARD (Sponsored by Writers Anonymous) \$25, \$15, \$10 and Honorable Mentions at judge's discretion. Form: Trimeric Any subject, line limit 13 [17 entries]

1st Place	Lee Pelham Cotton, Locust Hill, VA	<i>Flotsam</i>
2nd Place	Karen McAferty Morris, Pensacola, FL	<i>My Father's Flight</i>
3rd Place	Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX	<i>Like His Ancestors</i>
1st HM	Sara Gipson, Scott, AR	<i>A Sense of Summer Scents</i>
2nd HM	Myra Ward Barra, Pell City, AL	<i>The Captain's Promise</i>
3rd HM	Margaret Rush, Pell City, AL	<i>Evening Marvel</i>

11. THE "OVERCOMING ADVERSITY" AWARD (Sponsored by Ellen Sallas) \$15, \$10, \$5 and Honorable Mentions at judge's discretion. Any form, Subject: Overcoming adversity. [28 entries]

1st Place	Lee Pelham Cotton, Locust Hill, VA	<i>Mas Cornadas da el Habre</i>
2nd Place	Ruth Hill, British Columbia	<i>Spirit of Iron, Heart of Gold</i>
3rd Place	Janet Anderson, Huntsville, AL	<i>Into the Garden of Sisterhood</i>
1st HM	LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK	<i>An Unexpected Blessing</i>
2nd HM	Jessica Jones, Orange Beach, AL	<i>You + Me</i>

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