**2023 Annual Contest Winners**

**Category 1: ASPS Award**

Sponsored by: The Arizona State Poetry Society (ASPS)

 Judged by: Jessica Rich

First Place Stephen Bochinski The Whale That Swallowed Me

Second Place Linda Rittenhouse Last Swim

Third Place Martha H. Balph Yukon Summer

1st HM Linda LaVere Hatch Sister to Brother

2nd HM Michele Worthington Sleeping in the Anthropocene

3rd HM Stephen Bochinski Riding Through the Night

**Category 2: Aging Award**

Sponsored by: Walter and Regina Ralston

 Judged by: Jiwon Choi

First Place Karen Admussen Amaryllis Magnifica

Second Place Janice L. Freytag Low Are

Third Place Janet McMillan Rives Calculations

1st HM Brenda Wildrick Long Silver Hair Dancing with the Wind

2nd HM CChristy White Each Day I Forget Something

3rd HM Dawn Loeffler I Can’t Drive 55

**Category 3: Ekphrastic Award**

Sponsored by: NavWorks Press

 Judged by: Frances Cheong

First Place Lisa Kamolnick Adam & Eve: After the Fall

Second Place Rhonda Brown Flamingo Gate

Third Place Melvin Palowski Moore Gustave Caillebotte’s The Floor Scrapers

1st HM Laura Hansen Le Donne Val D’Orcia

2nd HM Terry Jude Miller Bringing in the Maple Sugar

3rd HM Janet McMillan Rives Across

**Category 4: Our Changing Environment Award**

Sponsored by: Scottsdale Mustang Poets

 Judged by: Scott Lowery

First Place CChristy White Cool Pool

Second Place Donna Isaac What Happened Today

Third Place Laura Hansen Sailing in a Sinkhole

1st HM Martha H. Balph An Inconvenient Truth

2nd HM Jonathan Bennett Resignation

3rd HM Charles Firmage On Our Way to Oz

**Category 5: Five C’s of Arizona Award (Cattle, Citrus, Climate, Cotton, Copper)** Sponsored by: West Valley Poets

Judged by: Janna Knittel

First Place Joyce Kohler Don’t Comfort Me With Apples

Second Place Linda Rittenhouse Sonoran Circle

Third Place Gail Denham Copper Mines

1st HM Jane Randall Inflation at the Fabric Store

2nd HM Jerri Hardesty A Place for Simplicity

3rd HM Janet McMillan Rives Whitehouse Canyon

**Category 6: Gardening Award**

Sponsored by: Laura Rodley

 Judged by: Christine Gelineau

First Place Jane Randall Zucchini Bread

Second Place Jane Randall An Annual Admonition

Third Place Charles Firmage Raining on Weeds

1st HM Cate Gable Apples in a Time of Plague

2nd HM Gene Twaronite Attitude

3rd HM CChristy White Unky Bunk’s Garden

4th HM Henry A. Childers Common Ground

**Category 7: Haiku Award**

Sponsored by: Kenneth Pearson

 Judged by: Johnette Downiing

First Place Martha H. Balph twenty years gone

Second Place Martha H. Balph poking between ribs

Third Place Janice L. Freytag breathless August night

1st HM Mark Hammerschick In Situ

2nd HM Martha H. Balph western tanager

3rd HM Donna Geise admiring the hawk

**Category 8: Humor Award**

Sponsored by: East Valley Poets

 Judged by: Carolyne Wright

First Place Martha H. Balph The Optometrist’s Nemesis

Second Place Linda Rittenhouse A Toot’s a Toot

Third Place Cate Gable A Quiet Musing Coffee Morning

1st HM Alan Perry Dropped Calls

2nd HM Henry A. Childers Overheard White Jogging

3rd HM Trina Lee Star Party

**Category 9: Jessie Belle Rittenhouse Memorial Award**

Sponsored by: Linda Rittenhouse

 Judged by: Julia Johnson

First Place Laura Hansen Rhymes with River

Second Place Linda Rittenhouse First Love

Third Place Michele Worthington Portal

1st HM Beverly Stanislawski Neon Dreams

2nd HM Daniel B. Pickett In Yonder Dreams

3rd HM Laura Rodley Sudden Snow

**Category 10: Legacy Award**

Sponsored by: CChristy White

 Judged by: Stephen Bochinski

First Place Shawna Braun Hearts

Second Place Janet Kamnikar In China

Third Place Martha H. Balph In His Last Days of Summer

1st HM Henry A. Childers Nothing to Say

2nd HM Alan Perry Obituary for a House

3rd HM Henry A. Childers The Radio

**Category 11: Native Lands and Voices Award**

Sponsored by: Lollie Butler

 Judged by: Jennifer Reeser

First Place Jeff Price Badlands at Sundown

Second Place Roseann St. Aubin Indian Joe

Third Place Martha H. Balph Ojibwa Spirit

1st HM Lorraine Jeffery The Import of a Metaphor

2nd HM Donna Isaac Highway 88

3rd HM CChristy White Bone Flowers

**Category 12: Nature’s Metaphor Award**

Sponsored by: Tucson Poetry Society

 Judged by: Sally Badawi

First Place Michael Spears Wild Asparagus

Second Place Gurupreet K. Khalsa I’m Writing a Lecture on Validity and Reliability

Third Place Jerri Hardesty Nesting

1st HM Linda Rittenhouse Canyon

2nd HM Wyatt Welch Gate’s Pass, Tucson

3rd HM Anita Dees Inside the Crystal Cavern

**Category 13: Previously Published Poem Award**

Sponsored by: Alan and Kris Perry

 Judged by: Sally Lehman

First Place Charity Everitt Unpacking the Cartons

Second Place Terry Judy Miller reunion of old lovers

Third Place Martha H. Balph Day Breaking

1st HM Alan Perry Reflection

2nd HM Martha H. Balph Adam’s Hand

3rd HM Alan Perry Encroachment

4th HM Rex Arrasmith Jesus Meets Eve on Ascension Day

**Category 14: Previously Rejected Poem Award**

Sponsored by: William Moody

 Judged by: Mary Jo Robinson-Jamison

First Place Alan Perry Voyager

Second Place Shawna Braun Monsoons

Third Place Anita Dees Double Helix Tattoo

1st HM Michael Spears Chewing Gum

2nd HM Betty Jo Middleton I’ve Got Mail

3rd HM Daniel J. Fitzgerald Incense

**Category 15: Prose Poem Award**

Sponsored by: Janet McMillan Rives

 Judged by: Mona Lisa Saloy

First Place Donna Isaac The Mere Distinction of Color

Second Place Joyce Kohler Hombre Mucho Grande

Third Place Terry Judy Miller How to Save the World

1st HM Charles Firmage Zebras

2nd HM Richard Ramsey What Would His Face Say

**Category 16: Rhyming Poetry for Children Award**

Sponsored by: Elaine A. Powers

 Judged by: Susan Hood

First Place Linda Rittenhouse Meadow

Second Place Christine Hennigan An Honest Appraisal of Ballet Class

Third Place Lollie Butler Kitchen Concert

1st HM Donna Isaac The Dragon Shares His Truth

2nd HM Delores (Dee Dee) Chumley Cow Chow Cafe

3rd HM Cate Gable It’s Time

**Category 17: Sci-Fi / Fantasy Award**

Sponsored by: Brick Cave Media

 Judged by: Jennifer Hernandez

First Place Gail Denham Comin’ Closer

Second Place Lisa Kamolnick True Story

Third Place CChristy White Interview with an Extraterrestrial

1st HM Terry Jude Miller the last computer

2nd HM Joyce Kohler An Abecedarian Homage to the Artist James C.

 Christensen

3rd HM Jerri Hardesty Blind Date

**Category 18: Shakespearean Award**

Sponsored by: John Crawford

 Judged by: Judith Rycroft

First Place Linda Rittenhouse Sockeye

Second Place Linda Rittenhouse Could I But

Third Place Michael Spears The Sound of Bees In a Spring Apple Tree

1st HM Paul Buchheit Seduction on a Morning Walk

2nd HM Daniel Moreschi Ephemeral Shrouds

3rd HM Joyce Kohler Old Apples

**Category 19: TAPS Award**

Sponsored by: Tucson Arts Poetry Series (TAPS)

 Judged by: Sam Rose Preminger

First Place Alan Perry Pegasus

Second Place David Navarro Mashed

Third Place Alan Perry It’s Not Enough

1st HM David Navarro I Dance Amazing There

2nd HM Michele Worthington Morning Paper

3rd HM David Navarro Launch Window Looms

**Category 20: Traditional Rhyme Award**

Sponsored by: Betsy Clark

 Judged by: Jeff Price

First Place Linda Rittenhouse Conspiracy

Second Place Linda R. Payne Kokopelli

Third Place Delores (Dee Dee) Chumley Unvanquished

1st HM Gurupreet K. Khalsa Flying by White Cliffs

2nd HM Laura Rodley Headwaters

3rd HM Martha H. Balph Genesis

**Category 21: Western Theme Award**

Sponsored by: Stuart Watkins

 Judged by: Amanda Marie Gipson

First Place Jerri Hardesty Cowboy Days

Second Place CChristy White Burro Creek

Third Place Trina Lee Contests

1st HM Crystie Cook How the Sunset Listens

2nd HM Terry Jude Miller cinched

3rd HM Laura Rodley Burro

**Category 22: Wild Places, Open Spaces Award**

Sponsored by: Steve Chaffee

 Judged by: Susan McMillan

First Place Paul Buchheit First Ride on the Transcontinental Railroad

Second Place Dianne Brown Kofa Mountain Sorcery

Third Place Michael Spears The Sierra Nevada’s Range of Light

1st HM Joyce Kohler Sargassum-of-the-Sea

2nd HM Jean Varda Summit Lake

3rd HM Beverly Stanislawski Nature’s Night Performance