

# 2025 ASPS ANNUAL CONTEST WINNERS

**Congratulations to all of the winners!  
Thank you to everyone who entered this  
year's contest and to all of the judges who  
generously gave of their time and skill!**



| Category                   | LastName    | FirstName    | City       | State | Poem Title              |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------|-------------------------|
| <b>CAT. 1 - ASPS Award</b> |             |              |            |       | <b>PAGE #1</b>          |
| <b>1st</b>                 | Hatch       | Linda LaVere | Tucson     | AZ    | Sister to Brother       |
| <b>2nd</b>                 | Worthington | Michele      | Tucson     | AZ    | Creosote and Coyote     |
| <b>3rd</b>                 | Miller      | Terry Jude   | Richmond   | TX    | Flight                  |
| <b>1HM</b>                 | Rittenhouse | Linda        | Scottsdale | AZ    | Unraveled               |
| <b>2HM</b>                 | Admussen    | Karen        | Tucson     | AZ    | Angry People            |
| <b>3HM</b>                 | Hilts       | Cynthia      | Tucson     | AZ    | speaking of Alzheimer's |

| <b>CAT. 2 - Aging</b> |             |         |              |    |  |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------|--------------|----|--|
| 1st                   | Deonarain   | Natasha | Chandler     | AZ | A few questions                        |
| 2nd                   | Soria       | Monique | Green Valley | AZ | Blue Triangles and White Powder Clouds |
| 3rd                   | Rittenhouse | Linda   | Scottsdale   | AZ | Now We Know                            |
| 1HM                   | Serrano     | Leah    | Tucson       | AZ | Between the bird songs                 |
| 2HM                   | Twaronite   | Gene    | Tucson       | AZ | Failure                                |
| 3HM                   | Wildrick    | Brenda  | Fort Morgan  | CO | After the Jobs are Done                |

| <b>CAT 3 - Free Verse</b> |        |             |              |    |   |
|---------------------------|--------|-------------|--------------|----|---|
| <b>1st</b>                | Wrenn  | Jenny       | Elgin        | AZ | Karmic Credit                           |
| <b>2nd</b>                | Hansen | Laura       | Little Falls | MN | When Fiona Apple Sings                  |
| <b>3rd</b>                | Miller | Terry Jude  | Richmond     | TX | Confrontation in the Kroger Parking Lot |
| <b>1HM</b>                | White  | CChristy    | Phoenix      | AZ | End of Old Dreams                       |
| <b>2HM</b>                | Zale   | Katie Sarah | Tucson       | AZ | A Postmodern Musing                     |
| <b>3HM</b>                | Wahl   | Mike        | Athens       | AL | The Great Escape                        |

**CAT 4. - Gardening**

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|            |             |            |                     |    |                    |
|------------|-------------|------------|---------------------|----|--------------------|
| <b>1st</b> | Miller      | Terry Jude | Richmond            | TX | Separation         |
| <b>2nd</b> | Rittenhouse | Linda      | Scottsdale          | AZ | Let it Bee         |
| <b>3rd</b> | Gagliardi   | Annette    | Minneapolis         | MN | Dill               |
| <b>1HM</b> | Hilts       | Cynthia    | Tucson              | AZ | soil's siren song  |
| <b>2HM</b> | Rittenhouse | Madison    | Chicago             | IL | Return to Mother   |
| <b>3HM</b> | Geise       | Donna      | Owens<br>Crossroads | AL | Defined by Gardens |

**CAT 5 - Issa Award in Haiku**

|            |        |           |              |    |                           |
|------------|--------|-----------|--------------|----|---------------------------|
| <b>1st</b> | Reiss  | Cindi     | Phoenix      | AZ | cooing mourning doves     |
| <b>2nd</b> | Berlin | Margot    | Mesa         | AZ | Morningfall               |
| <b>3rd</b> | Balph  | Martha H. | Millville    | UT | rice-paper mantis         |
| <b>1HM</b> | Balph  | Martha H. | Millville    | UT | hibernating buds          |
| <b>2HM</b> | Reiss  | Cindi     | Phoenix      | AZ | palm trees sway in stones |
| <b>3HM</b> | Soria  | Monique   | Green Valley | AZ | Family                    |

**CAT. 6 - Spoken Word**

|            |           |           |             |    |                             |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|----|-----------------------------|
| <b>1st</b> | Files     | Ashanti   | Chandler    | AZ | Medicine Cabinet            |
| <b>2nd</b> | Twaronite | Gene      | Tucson      | AZ | Get Out Early               |
| <b>3rd</b> | Mahnke    | Carolyn S | Albuquerque | NM | Journey to the Ocean's Edge |
| <b>1HM</b> | Thomas    | Rebeca    | Youngtown   | AZ | Mama Tina                   |
| <b>2HM</b> | Arrasmith | Rex       | Tucson      | AZ | The Sinner's Table          |
| <b>3HM</b> | Serrano   | Leah      | Tucson      | AZ | Give me a whimsical day     |

**CAT. 7 - Humor/Satire**

|            |             |            |             |    |                                |
|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|----|--------------------------------|
| <b>1st</b> | Crawford    | John W.    | Hot Springs | AR | Ode to Spam                    |
| <b>2nd</b> | Serrano     | Leah       | Tucson      | AZ | How is life with a new baby?   |
| <b>3rd</b> | Payne       | Linda R.   | Ramsey      | MN | Confession of an Ailurophile   |
| <b>1HM</b> | Barney      | V. Kimball | Kaysville   | UT | At the Breakfast Table         |
| <b>2HM</b> | Huelsenbeck | Andrea     | Tempe       | AZ | Yours Truly, Your 2014 Mustang |
| <b>3HM</b> | St. Augin   | Roseann    | Tucson      | AZ | Mr. Waffles                    |

**CAT. 8 - Rittenhouse Memorial**

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|            |             |          |                 |    |                        |
|------------|-------------|----------|-----------------|----|------------------------|
| <b>1st</b> | Dees        | Anita    | New London      | CT | Anyone But You         |
| <b>2nd</b> | Wahl        | Mike     | Athens          | AL | Grandma's Accumulation |
| <b>3rd</b> | Rittenhouse | Linda    | Scottsdale      | AZ | Ponderings             |
| <b>1HM</b> | Rittenhouse | Linda    | Scottsdale      | AZ | Regret                 |
| <b>2HM</b> | Payne       | Linda R. | Ramsey          | MN | Music of the Night     |
| <b>3HM</b> | Rodley      | Laura    | Shelburne Falls | MA | Nectar                 |

**CAT 9 - Legacy Award**

|            |           |             |            |    |   |
|------------|-----------|-------------|------------|----|---|
| <b>1st</b> | Walters   | S. Evan     | Lebanon    | IN | Moon Walking                              |
| <b>2nd</b> | Thompkins | Cathy Hemby | Flagstaff  | AZ | All I Know                                |
| <b>3rd</b> | Balph     | Martha H.   | Millville  | UT | Hillcrest Estates: America the Beautiful? |
| <b>1HM</b> | Hilts     | Cynthia     | Tucson     | AZ | Amethyst in a Tin Can                     |
| <b>2HM</b> | Dees      | Anita       | New London | CT | A Dirty Piece of Work                     |
| <b>3HM</b> | LaChance  | Nancy       | Lebanon    | MO | What will be my Legacy?                   |

**CAT. 10 - Short Poem**

|            |              |             |                 |    |                     |
|------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|----|---------------------|
| <b>1st</b> | Zale         | Katie Sarah | Tucson          | AZ | What the Wind Knows |
| <b>2nd</b> | Eichenberger | Colleen     | Eagan           | MN | Mere Vessel         |
| <b>3rd</b> | Perry        | Alan        | Maple Grove     | MN | Her Nature          |
| <b>1HM</b> | Soria        | Monique     | Green Valley    | AZ | Is                  |
| <b>2HM</b> | Rodley       | Laura       | Shelburne Falls | MA | Another Deluge      |
| <b>3HM</b> | Eichenberger | Colleen     | Eagan           | MN | God Poem            |

**CAT. 11 - Nature's Gift**

|            |             |              |            |    |                          |
|------------|-------------|--------------|------------|----|--------------------------|
| <b>1st</b> | Huelsenbeck | Andrea       | Tempe      | AZ | Desert Rain              |
| <b>2nd</b> | Payne       | Linda R.     | Ramsey     | MN | Teach Me, Earth...       |
| <b>3rd</b> | Sherman     | Barbara Anne | Oro Valley | AZ | Miracle in Blue          |
| <b>1HM</b> | Miller      | Terry Jude   | Richmond   | TX | The Last Falling Star    |
| <b>2HM</b> | Payne       | Linda R.     | Ramsey     | MN | Listen, Pause, Sit, Give |
| <b>3HM</b> | Whitney     | Tanya        | Sorrento   | LA | Earthly Painting         |

**CAT. 12 - Ekphrastic Poem**

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|            |             |          |                 |    |                               |
|------------|-------------|----------|-----------------|----|-------------------------------|
| <b>1st</b> | Deonarain   | Natasha  | Chandler        | AZ | Marek Danielewski's Vitellius |
| <b>2nd</b> | Rodley      | Laura    | Shelburne Falls | MA | Dragonfly Wings               |
| <b>3rd</b> | Twaronite   | Gene     | Tucson          | AZ | The Foot                      |
| <b>1HM</b> | White       | CChristy | Phoenix         | AZ | I Dreamed Four Birds          |
| <b>2HM</b> | Payne       | Linda R. | Ramsey          | MN | La Grenouillere               |
| <b>3HM</b> | Huelsenbeck | Andrea   | Tempe           | AZ | Eavesdropping                 |

**CAT. 13 - Power of Women**

|            |             |         |              |    |                      |
|------------|-------------|---------|--------------|----|----------------------|
| <b>1st</b> | Biskupski   | Walter  | Indianapolis | IN | Mystic Chords        |
| <b>2nd</b> | Soria       | Monique | Green Valley | AZ | Onion                |
| <b>3rd</b> | Kautz-Owens | Sue Ann | Tucson       | AZ | Women Are Invincible |
| <b>1HM</b> | Hardesty    | Jerri   | Brierfield   | AL | Free Spirit          |
| <b>2HM</b> | Hudson      | Mark    | Evanston     | IL | Susan Thew           |
| <b>3HM</b> | Gagliardi   | Annette | Minneapolis  | MN | Arm Your Infants     |

**CAT. 14 - Previously Published Poem**

|            |           |                  |              |    |                                   |
|------------|-----------|------------------|--------------|----|-----------------------------------|
| <b>1st</b> | Jeffery   | Lorraine         | Orem         | UT | History of Hope                   |
| <b>2nd</b> | Flaxman   | Eileen Valentino | Green Valley | AZ | The Crosstown                     |
| <b>3rd</b> | Twaronite | Gene             | Tucson       | AZ | When I Saw the Learn'd Astronomer |
| <b>1HM</b> | Twaronite | Gene             | Tucson       | AZ | The Poem I Would Never Write      |
| <b>2HM</b> | Khalsa    | Gurupreet K.     | Mobile       | AL | A Stitch in Time                  |
| <b>3HM</b> | Hardesty  | Jerri            | Brierfield   | AL | Date Night With Poetry            |

**CAT. 15 - Previously Rejected****Poem**

|            |         |              |              |    |                                   |
|------------|---------|--------------|--------------|----|-----------------------------------|
| <b>1st</b> | Khalsa  | Gurupreet K. | Mobile       | AL | Cherished Mother-Daughter Moments |
| <b>2nd</b> | Hansen  | Laura        | Little Falls | MN | Snag at Midstream                 |
| <b>3rd</b> | Miller  | Terry Jude   | Richmond     | TX | Poetry, The Keep of Sorrows       |
| <b>1HM</b> | Canerdy | Janice       | Potts Camp   | MS | Monday                            |
| <b>2HM</b> | Jeffery | Lorraine     | Orem         | UT | Borders, Walls, and Lines         |
| <b>3HM</b> | Files   | Ryan         | Chandler     | AZ | Patient Health Questionnaire      |

**CAT 16 - Pride in Poetry****PAGE #5**

|            |         |               |           |    |   |
|------------|---------|---------------|-----------|----|---|
| <b>1st</b> | Balph   | Martha H.     | Millville | UT | Nothing Rhymes with Orange                              |
| <b>2nd</b> | Freytag | Janice L.     | Souderton | PA | Pump 8  |
| <b>3rd</b> | Zale    | Katie Sarah   | Tucson    | AZ | Ode to the Word   |
| <b>1HM</b> | Hatch   | Linda LaVere  | Tucson    | AZ | Ice   |
| <b>2HM</b> | Miller  | Terry Jude    | Richmond  | TX | The Many Things We Do Not Know, The Many Things We Feel |
| <b>3HM</b> | Busby   | Connor Joseph | Mesa      | AZ | Fragments from a Sicilian Summer                        |

**CAT. 17 - Rhyming Poem for Children**

|            |             |            |            |    |                   |
|------------|-------------|------------|------------|----|-------------------|
| <b>1st</b> | Barney      | V. Kimball | Kaysville  | UT | Pokey Pete        |
| <b>2nd</b> | Rittenhouse | Linda      | Scottsdale | AZ | Manners           |
| <b>3rd</b> | Files       | Ryan       | Chandler   | AZ | Two               |
| <b>1HM</b> | White       | CChristy   | Phoenix    | AZ | Gila Monster      |
| <b>2HM</b> | Sen         | Alene      | Gilbert    | AZ | Movement          |
| <b>3HM</b> | Payne       | Linda R.   | Ramsey     | MN | Raindrop Drummers |

**CAT. 18 - Sci/Fi & Fantasy**

|            |             |           |           |    |                  |
|------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|----|------------------|
| <b>1st</b> | Rittenhouse | Madison   | Chicago   | IL | The Survivor     |
| <b>2nd</b> | Durham      | Tina      | Hereford  | AZ | VAMPIRE DREAMS   |
| <b>3rd</b> | Balph       | Martha H. | Millville | UT | The Lost Kingdom |

**NO HMs WERE CHOSEN****CAT. 19 - Sonnet**

|            |          |                   |                 |    |                           |
|------------|----------|-------------------|-----------------|----|---------------------------|
| <b>1st</b> | Dees     | Anita             | New London      | CT | Gentle Reminders          |
| <b>2nd</b> | Teteak   | Earl (Artiste-te) | Paradise Valley | AZ | among us                  |
| <b>3rd</b> | Hardesty | Jerri             | Brierfield      | AL | To Hot Springs in October |
| <b>1HM</b> | Walters  | S. Evan           | Lebanon         | IN | Rocket's Red Glare        |
| <b>2HM</b> | Perry    | Alan              | Maple Grove     | MN | Pen Name                  |
| <b>3HM</b> | Firmage  | Charles K.        | Eloy            | AZ | It Takes an Artist        |

**CAT. 20 - Western Roads****PAGE #6**

|            |          |            |            |    |                                    |
|------------|----------|------------|------------|----|------------------------------------|
| <b>1st</b> | Jones    | Emory      | Iuka       | MS | Long Winding Road                  |
| <b>2nd</b> | Jeffery  | Lorraine   | Orem       | UT | Road Trips                         |
| <b>3rd</b> | Hardesty | Jerri      | Brierfield | AL | Driving Back To Where We Came From |
| <b>1HM</b> | Hudson   | Mark       | Evanston   | IL | Arizona's Roadside Charms          |
| <b>2HM</b> | Bratcher | Nicholas   | Phoenix    | AZ | Spirit of the Trail                |
| <b>3HM</b> | Firmage  | Charles K. | Eloy       | AZ | California Called                  |

**CAT. 21 - Wild Places, Open Spaces**

|            |             |                   |                 |    |                         |
|------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|----|-------------------------|
| <b>1st</b> | Teteak      | Earl (Artiste-te) | Paradise Valley | AZ | long pulls              |
| <b>2nd</b> | Deonarain   | Natasha           | Chandler        | AZ | before                  |
| <b>3rd</b> | Rittenhouse | Linda             | Scottsdale      | AZ | High Desert Trail       |
| <b>1HM</b> | Hilts       | Cynthia           | Tucson          | AZ | the underside of a leaf |
| <b>2HM</b> | Wrenn       | Jenny             | Elgin           | AZ | Navajo Sandstone        |
| <b>3HM</b> | Jones       | Emory             | Iuka            | MS | Sanctuary               |

**CAT. 22 - Short Rhyming Poem**

|            |          |            |                 |    |                                     |
|------------|----------|------------|-----------------|----|-------------------------------------|
| <b>1st</b> | Payne    | Linda R.   | Ramsey          | MN | Early Morning                       |
| <b>2nd</b> | Jones    | Emory      | Iuka            | MS | Leaf Ballet                         |
| <b>3rd</b> | Miller   | Terry Jude | Richmond        | TX | Cycle                               |
| <b>1HM</b> | Balph    | Martha H.  | Millville       | UT | Hobbled by Shoes on a Snowy Evening |
| <b>2HM</b> | Rodley   | Laura      | Shelburne Falls | MA | Nest                                |
| <b>3HM</b> | LaChance | Nancy      | Lebanon         | MO | Crocus Games                        |

**CAT. 23 - Winter in America**

|            |          |                  |             |    |   |
|------------|----------|------------------|-------------|----|---|
| <b>1st</b> | Morris   | Patricia Tiffany | Bondurant   | IA | Snow-Painted Conversations and Coffee Connections |
| <b>2nd</b> | Wildrick | Brenda           | Fort Morgan | CO | I Arrive Starving                                 |
| <b>3rd</b> | Durham   | Tina             | Hereford    | AZ | And As I Slept, I Dreamed A Dream                 |
| <b>1HM</b> | Balph    | Martha H.        | Millville   | UT | raked up in backyards                             |
| <b>2HM</b> | Payne    | Linda R.         | Ramsey      | MN | Invasive Species                                  |
| <b>3HM</b> | Balph    | Martha H.        | Millville   | UT | Enfant Terrible                                   |