

2011 ISPS POETRY CONTEST AWARD WINNERS

Free Verse Category

Judge: Bruce Guernsey

Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Eastern Illinois University, Past Editor "The Spoon River Poetry Review,"
Published poet and author

First Place: "Deluxe Box" by Kathy Cotton,

Second Place: "Finding Diamonds in the Dark" by Mary Jo Balistreri,

Third Place: "Spring Rendezvous" by Susan Moss,

Honorable Mention: "Holy Wisdom" by Mary Jo Balistreri, "In the Seed" by Kathy Cotton and "Solace in
December" by Mary Jo Balistreri

Formal Verse Category

Judge: Marilyn L. Taylor

Wisconsin Poet Laureate 2009-10, Adjunct Asst. Professor University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Contributing
Editor for "The Writer," Published poet and author

First Place: "Game Boy" by Beth Staas

Second Place: "Snow Haiku" by Donna Pucciani

Third Place: "Lament" by Emily Cowan

Honorable Mention: "Consummate Prevarication" by Barbara Blanks, "You Could" by Pauline Mounsey and
"Another Drought Year" by Pauline Mounsey

Poem on Personal Growth Category

Judge: Arlene Gay Levine

NYC based poet and author of "Thirty-Nine Ways to Open Your Heart: An Illuminated Meditation." Her award-
winning work has appeared in "The New York Times," an off-Broadway show and many other venues.

First Place: "New Songs" by Aaron Holst

Second Place: "Lessons" by Peggy Trojan

Third Place: "Night Laundry" by Judith Tullis

Honorable Mention: "Awakening" by Irene Zimmerman, "Half Way" by Barbara Funke and "Identifying
Labels" by Connie Johnson

Congratulations to all the winning poets, and thank you to everyone for submitting their work to this year's
contest. We had over 200 entries in the Free Verse category and over 100 each in the Formal and Personal
Growth poem categories. Our wonderful judges were highly challenged to pick the top six, but did a fine job
with the above selections. Happy Holidays to all! William Vollrath, 2011 ISPS Contest Chair.