Winners of the 2016 Illinois State Poetry Society Contest:

Category 1 Free Verse,
Judge Jill Lapin Zell, Dayton, NJ

FIRST PLACE:  
For My Unborn Grandchild:  
Susan Spaeth Cherry, Evanston, IL
SECOND PLACE:  
Nether Time:  
Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX
THIRD PLACE:  
In Transit:  
Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
HM #1:  
Stringing Pearls:  
Becky Alexander, Cambridge, Ontario Canada
HM #2:  
A Riff on 23:  
Hugh Muldoon, Carbondale, IL
HM #3:  
Femmes Fatales:  
Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

Category #2 Formal Verse
Judge, Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN

FIRST PLACE:  
Cupid:  
Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL
SECOND PLACE:  
Soft as Feathers:  
Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT
THIRD PLACE:  
Fortune Cookie:  
Michael Escoubas, Bloomington, IL
HM #1:  
Fireflies:  
Susan Spaeth Cherry, Evanston, IL
HM #2:  
A Wonder Unto Itself:  
Jeani Picklesimer, Ashland, KY
HM #3:  
Hymn:  
Judith Tullis, Indian Head Park, IL

Category #3 Haiku
Judge: Julie Warther, Dover, OH

FIRST PLACE:  
the blue silk:  
Susan B. Auld, Arlington Hts, IL
SECOND PLACE:  
letting cool air...:  
Del Todyé Turner, Waterloo, IA
THIRD PLACE:  
after his death...:  
Charlotte Digregorio, Winnetka, IL
HM #1:  
oh chickadee:  
Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT
HM #2:  
cat bats at the moth:  
Sally Clark, Fredericksburg, TX
HM #3:  
high tide:  
Judith Tullis, Indian Head Park, IL

Category #4 The Arts
Judge: Valerie Martin Bailey, San Antonio, TX

FIRST PLACE:  
Rocks of Down East:  
Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX
SECOND PLACE:  
Tapestry:  
Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
THIRD PLACE:  
Leaning Against the Corner:  
Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR
HM #1:  
Substantiation:  
Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN
HM #2:  
The Past Captured on Canvas:  
Caroline Walton, Crystal River, FL
HM #3:  
Where Lies the Gift:  
Jeani Picklesimer, Ashland, KY

Category #5 Celestial
Judge: James Ahearn, Rochester, MI

FIRST PLACE:  
Star Lights’ Fame:  
Von S.. Bourland, Happy, TX
SECOND PLACE:  
The Prince of Night:  
Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
THIRD PLACE:  
Eclipsed Moon:  
Daniel J. Fitzgerald, Pontiac, IL
Winners of the 2016 Illinois State Poetry Society Contest:

(Category #5 Celestial continued)
HM #1: *A Shooting Star*: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR
HM #2: *A HIGHER CALLING*: Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN
HM #3: *Interlopers*: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL

Category #6: Music
Judge Jim Barton, Huttig, AR

FIRST PLACE: *Improv on Blue*: Mary Jo Balistreri, Waukesha, WI
SECOND PLACE: *Song for the Oncologist*: Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL
THIRD PLACE: *Cricket Music*: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR
HM #1: *Galway Jamming*: Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN
HM #2: *Chirps*: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
HM #3: *The Vamp*: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

Category #7: Compassion
Judge: Paul Ford, Sandy, UT

FIRST PLACE: *Refuge*: Caroline Johnson, Willow Springs, IL
SECOND PLACE: *A Mile in Her Shoes*: Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL
THIRD PLACE: *Talking to Guilt*: Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL
HM #1: *Elephant Whisperer*: Patricia Peterson, Cottonwood Hts., UT
HM #2: *For Bill*: Mary Jo Balestreri, Waukesha, WI