

2026 Contest Winners

Category 1: The Margo LaGattuta Memorial Award. judged by Ken Meisel

- 1st: Foreclosed / *Joy Gaines-Friedler, Farmington Hills, MI*
- 2nd: Walters on Washington / *Sherrin Frances, Saginaw, MI*
- 3rd: She Learns / *Joanne Gram, Lansing, MI*
- HM: To My Lost Daughter, as She Grieves / *Marianne Peel, Lexington, KY*

Category 2: Chancellor's Prize, judged by Keith Taylor

- 1st: Another Type of Alpine Divorce / *Lynne Schmidt, Norway, ME*
- 2nd: California Dreams / *Polly Opsahl, Davison, MI*
- 3rd: To Be in New Orleans Tonight / *Shawna Braun, Flagstaff, AZ*
- HM: Goodness / *Maureen Hart, Lansing, MI*

Category 3: Founder's Prize, judged by Cindy Hunter Morgan

- 1st: Train Dispatch – Iowa / *Maureen Hart, Saginaw, MI*
- 2nd: A Legacy of Philately / *Marianne Peel, Lexington, KY*
- 3rd: Winter Postcards / *Katherine Edgren, Dexter, MI*
- HM: Letter to My Younger Sister / *Linda Nemec Foster, Grand Rapids, MI*

Category 4: The Barbara Sykes Memorial Prize, judged by Diane DeCillis

- 1st: Cicada Apocalypse / *Ginny Grush, Farmington Hills, MI*
- 2nd: Irish Weather Forecast / *Francis O'Brien, Pacifica, CA*
- 3rd: The Best Things I Have Learned from Student Papers / *Michelle DeRose, Grand Rapids, MI*
- HM: The Impossible Dream / *David James, Linden, MI*

Category 5: The George Dila Memorial Prose Poem, judged by Marc Sheehan

- 1st: Almost Epiphany / *Jill Doster Marcusse, Grand Rapids, MI*
- 2nd: Cupid with a Musket / *Linda Rosenthal, Fremont, MI*
- 3rd: Morning / *Cynthia Weber Nankee, Canton, MI*
- HM: New Year's Resolutions / *Linda Nemec Foster, Grand Rapids, MI*

Category 6: Nature / The Jude P. Dunbar Memorial Prize, judged by Robert Haight

- 1st: Ruby Throat at Midsummer / *Michelle DeRose, Grand Rapids, MI*
- 2nd: Park San Miguel, Spain / *Marianne Peel, Lexington, Ky*
- 3rd: Fledgling Calls / *Chelsea Szczembara, Brighton, MI*
- HM: Earth Elegy / *Dawn Levitt, Harrison Township, MI*

Category 7: Overcoming Adversity, judged by Jan Worth

- 1st: Find a Roost / *Joy Gaines-Friedler, Farmington Hills, MI*
2nd: Kintsugi* / *Ann Glumac, Duluth, MN*
3rd: Life Lines / *Isabella J. Mansfield, Howell, MI*
HM: How To Ask / *Joanne Gram, Lansing, MI*

Category 8: The Faruq Z. Bey Award for Poetry Related to Music, judged by Dennis Hinrichsen

- 1st: Für Elise in the Waiting Room / *Colleen Alles, Grand Rapids, MI*
2nd: Love Song for Judy Collins / *Marianne Peel, Lexington, KY*
3rd: I Kept Your Pillow Next to Me Until It Was Stale / *Sherrin Frances, Saginaw, MI*
HM: The Singing Forest / *Lynne Schmidt, Norway, ME*

Category 9: Loss, judged by Alan Basting

- 1st: Two Women / *Lissa Perrin, Ann Arbor, MI*
2nd: Fannie Lou Hamer's Note to My Dad / *Nan Jackson, East Lansing, MI*
3rd: Weekends With Mom / *Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX*
HM: They Sell Hazmat Suits at Home Depot / *Joy Gaines-Friedler, Farmington Hills, MI*

Category 10: Women in Science, judged by Christine Rhein

- 1st: Mary Anning: Rewriting the History of Life on Earth / *Marianne Peel, Lexington, KY*
2nd: Proof / *Katherine Edgren, Dexter, MI*
3rd: The Slumbering Quiet / *Susan Haifleigh, Northville, MI*
HM: Truth in Discovery / *Debra Belcher, Tustin, MI*