

2025 UTSPS APRIL POETRY AWARDS FESTIVAL CONTEST WINNERS

1. WILD CARD

78 entries (3 disqualified)

Sponsor: poets who enter

Judge: Elizabeth Smith, Utah

1 st Place	Robert Rippy	A Bus Stop in New Orleans, 1975	St. George
2 nd Place	Russell Asplund	A Vintage Faith	Layton
3 rd Place	Martha H. Balph	Adam's Hand	Millville
1 st HM	Doug Holm	Banking Day	Springville
2 nd HM	Nick Sweet	My Father's Woodpile	Shepherd, Texas
3 rd HM	Lorraine Jeffery	Maui	Orem

2. POET'S WORK

37 entries (5 disqualified)

Sponsor: Paul Ford & Marie Andrews

Judge: Marilyn Bushman-Carlton

1 st Place	Markay Brown	Limn...	St. George
2 nd Place	Twila Wood	Friends of Wildflowers	Smithfield
3 rd Place	Pam Tucker	In the Care of Tender Women	Washington
1 st HM	Susan Foster	Old Friends	Hurricane
2 nd HM	Barbara Funke	Note to Pisces	St. George
3 rd HM	Russell Asplund	To the Unknown Poets	Layton

3. VERNA HARTSOE CHIONG MEMORIAL

32 entries (1 disqualified)

Sponsor: Raven Chiong Memorial Fund

Judge: Star Coulbrook, Utah

1 st Place	Sarah E. Morin	Twist	Fishers, Indiana
2 nd Place	Joyce Kohler	Arminta Was Willing	Ephraim
3 rd Place	Louise Cook	Dip, Lip, Paint	Sandy
1 st HM	V. Kimball Barney	The Rainmaker	Kaysville
2 nd HM	Grace Diane Jessen	Mother's Legacy	Glenwood
3 rd HM	Donna Geise	Unremarkable	Owens Cross Roads, Alabama

4. MATTHEW LIMBURGH: CHRIST-CENTERED

31 entries (0 disqualified)

Sponsor: Michael Shoemaker

Judge: Steve Sanders, Texas

1 st Place	Joyce Kohler	Gethsemane	Ephraim
2 nd Place	Twila Wood	In Communion	Smithfield
3 rd Place	Markay Brown	Shoulders of the Shepherd	St. George
1 st HM	V. Kimball Barney	Eternal Gift	Kaysville
2 nd HM	Susan Randall	Deliverance	Orem
3 rd HM	Grace Diane Jessen	At the River	Glenwood

5. PAT BADER'S CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Sponsor: Bob Bader

1 st Place	Kristal Sullivan	First Steps
2 nd Place	Kirsten Turnbow	It Will
3 rd Place	Donna Geise	Sweeping up Sprinkles
1 st HM	Susan Foster	Naming Ceremony
2 nd HM	Sharon Price Anderson	Sudden Light
3 rd HM	Jane Randall	Foamy Mirth

28 entries (1 disqualified)

Judge: Kirk Hardesty, Alabama

Hurricane
American Fork
Owens Cross Roads, Alabama
Hurricane
Orem
Centerville

6. NAD BROWN MEMORIAL

Sponsor: Markay Brown

1 st Place	Pam Tucker	Shadows
2 nd Place	Robert Rippy	Meditation on Metaphors
3 rd Place	Susan Randall	Ambidextrous
1 st HM	Crystie Cook	Tapestry in Blues
2 nd HM	Louise Cook	Comrades in Arms
3 rd HM	Michael Spears	The Lovely Ladies of Autumn

27 entries (2 disqualified)

Judge: Budd Mahan, Texas

Washington
St. George
Orem
Sandy
Sandy
Sandy

7. HELEN BEAMAN MEMORIAL

Sponsor: Anonymous

1 st Place	Terry Jude Miller	First Light
2 nd Place	Doug Holm	Summer in Ephraim
3 rd Place	Grace Diane Jessen	Homecoming
1 st HM	Annette R. Holm	Crowded
2 nd HM	Twila Wood	Rachmaninoff Concerto #3
3 rd HM	Sarah E. Morin	At The End of The Bonfire

41 entries (1 disqualified)

Judge: Polly Opsahl, Michigan

Richmond, Texas
Springville
Glenwood
Springville
Smithfield
Fishers, Indiana

8. ORVILLE WEBB (cowboy)

Sponsor: Anonymous

1 st Place	Grace Diane Jessen	Bronc Rider
2 nd Place	V. Kimball Barney	Cattle Drive
3 rd Place	Crystie Cook	Sam's Free-for-Brawl
1 st HM	Jerri Hardesty	Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch
2 nd HM	Susan Randall	It's in the Bag
3 rd HM	Michael Spears	Trailin' Behind

15 entries (1 disqualified)

Judge: Marleen Bussma, Utah

Glenwood
Kaysville
Sandy
Brierfield, Alabama
Orem
Sandy

9. DAVID & ROBERT BALPH MEMORIAL

Sponsor: Martha H. Balph

1 st Place	Maurine Haltiner	A Hawk's Words
2 nd Place	Markay Brown	When an Owl Crosses Your Path
3 rd Place	Louise Cook	Stellula Calliope
1 st HM	Robert Rippy	Me and the Bee
2 nd HM	Martha H. Balph	The Cheetah
3 rd HM	Michael E. Strosahl	Flight of the Screech

31 entries (1 disqualified)

Judge: Rob Carney, Utah

Salt Lake City
St. George
Sandy
St. George
Millville
DeKalb, Illinois

10. AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE

Sponsor: Martha H. Balph

15 entries (1 disqualified)

Judge: Collette Tennant, Oregon

1 st Place	Barbara Funke	Collectibles
2 nd Place	Joyce Kohler	Dineh Girl
3 rd Place	Markay Brown	Ghost Painter
1 st HM	Lorraine Jeffery	Zia Sun
2 nd HM	Crystie Cook	Paiute Girl at Work
3 rd HM	Michael Spears	Tears of Lost Woman

St. George
Ephraim
St. George
Orem
Sandy
Sandy

11. CINQUAIN

Sponsor: Grace Diane Jessen

18 entries (3 disqualified)

Judge: Jana Hannigan, Oregon

1 st Place	Markay Brown	Autumn Elegy
2 nd Place	Lynda La Rocca	Mourning
3 rd Place	Jane Randall	A Crow Confesses
1 st HM	Joyce Kohler	To Robin
2 nd HM	Twila Wood	Black Cat
3 rd HM	Barbara Funke	Engaged by the New Moon

St. George
Salida, Colorado
Centerville
Ephraim
Smithfield
St. George

12. FUNNY BUSINESS

Sponsor: Kim Barney

20 entries (4 disqualified)

Judge: Bill Abbott, Ohio

1 st Place	Russell Asplund	Behold the Centipede
2 nd Place	Jane Randall	The Bare Barrister of Brigham City
3 rd Place	Nick Sweet	10 Minutes Till SHOWTIME!!
1 st HM	Marney Zambrano	A Romantic Endeavor for My Lover
2 nd HM	Martha H. Balph	Losing to the Muse
3 rd HM	Mike Wahl	Strange Revelations

Layton
Centerville
Shepherd, Texas
Nampa, Idaho
Millville
Athens, Alabama

13. SERIOUS SHAKESPEARE

Sponsor: Kim Barney

21 entries (5 disqualified)

Judge: Barbara Funke (sub), Utah

1 st Place	Lynda La Rocca	That Sailing Ship
2 nd Place	Jerri Hardesty	It Hurts to Remember
3 rd Place	Jane Randall	One Corner of Wind
1 st HM	Crystie Cook	The Kindest of Sonnets
2 nd HM	Grace Diane Jessen	Unforgettable
3 rd HM	O. William Asplund	Forever Friends

Salida, Colorado
Brierfield, Alabama
Centerville
Sandy
Glenwood
Layton

14. REDROCK WRITERS FOUNDERS

Sponsor: Redrock Writers Chapter

26 entries (1 disqualified)

Judge: Mary Beth Bretzlauf, Illinois

1 st Place	Maurine Haltiner	Of Shadows & Light
2 nd Place	Jolayne Nelson	Promise of Clay
3 rd Place:	Markay Brown	Heirloom Negatives
1 st HM	Twila Wood	The Funeral Singer
2 nd HM	Louise Cook	I Twist...
3 rd HM	Michael Parker	Today I am a Soul Full of Stars

Salt Lake City
St. George
St. George
Smithfield
Sandy
Orem

15. HINTERLANDS

Sponsor: Hinterlands Chapter

29 entries (0 disqualified)

Judge: Lance Larsen, Utah

1 st Place	Robert Rippy	Biosoil Crust of the Colorado Plateau	St. George
2 nd Place	Pam Tucker	If in a Hundred Years	Washington
3 rd Place	Lorraine Jeffery	Prairie Wisdom	Orem
1 st HM	Twila Wood	Shaconage	Smithfield
2 nd HM	Shawn Dallas Stradley	Stone Whisper	Salt Lake City
3 rd HM	Michael E. Strosahl	Vineyard	DeKalb, Illinois

16. MARILYN MARSHALL

Sponsor: Marilyn Marshall

38 entries (2 disqualified)

Judge: Bob Schinzel, Texas

1 st Place	Michael Spears	Spring Flowers in a Plain City Yard	Sandy
2 nd Place	Pam Tucker	Bright Points in Darkness over Australia	Washington
3 rd Place	Michael Strosahl	The Light Growing Brighter	DeKalb, Illinois
1 st HM	Martha H. Balph	Notre Dame	Millville
2 nd HM	Denis Feehan	The Wishing Well	Mesquite, Nevada
3 rd HM	Jerri Hardesty	Random Song of Hope	Brierfield, Alabama

17. ODE TO THE PAST

Sponsor: Marilyn Richardson

37 entries (1 disqualified)

Judge: Mary Ricketson, North Carolina

1 st Place	Jane Randall	Ode to an Empty Mail Box	Centerville
2 nd Place	Crystie Cook	Patchwork Quilt	Sandy
3 rd Place	Michael Spears	Aunt Jennie Died	Sandy
1 st HM	Markay Brown	Queen for a Day...	St. George
2 nd HM	Jolayne Nelson	Sledding in Sugarhouse Park	St. George
3 rd HM	Shawn Dallas Stradley	Apple Orchards	Salt Lake City

18. BEN LOMOND

Sponsor: Ben Lomond Chapter

27 entries (1 disqualified)

Judge: Ann Howells, Texas

1 st Place	Sara E. Morin	Dandelions	Fishers, Indiana
2 nd Place	Pam Tucker	The Burden of Weeds	Washington
3 rd Place	Kristal Sullivan	Pulling Out the Weeds	Hurricane
1 st HM	V. Kimball Barney	Thank God for Weeds	Kaysville
2 nd HM	Crystie Cook	Terpsichorean Tumbleweeds	Sandy
3 rd HM	Joyce Kohler	Filaree	Ephraim

19. EKPHRASTIC

Sponsor: Anonymous

27 entries (2 disqualified)

Judge: Susan Chambers, Minnesota

1 st Place	Michael Parker	Little Rook	Orem
2 nd Place	Jerri Hardesty	The Scream	Brierfield, Alabama
3 rd Place	Donna Geise	Let a Sleeping Dog Lie	Owens Cross Roads, Alabama
1 st HM	Mike Wahl	One Question	Athens, Alabama
2 nd HM	Michael Shoemaker	The Shepherd	Magna
3 rd HM	Shawn Dallas Stradley	Classic Sculpture	Salt Lake City

20. MICHAEL & JEANETTE PARKER

12 entries (2 disqualified)

Sponsor: Michael & Jeannette Parker

Judge: Kevin Clark, Utah

1 st Place	Michael Parker	Climbing The Sky	Orem
2 nd Place	Crystie Cook	A Fairyland Tale in Bryce Canyon	Sandy
3 rd Place	Michael E. Strosahl	The Legend of Deadhorse Point	DeKalb, Illinois
1 st HM	Markay Brown	Zion Retreat	St. George
2 nd HM	Louise Cook	Waterpocket Fold: Capitol Reef	Sandy
3 rd HM	JoLea Johnson	Hyrum's Symphony of Unseen Peace	Hyde Park

21. LEFT to WRITE

42 entries (4 disqualified)

Sponsor: Pam Tucker

Judge: Kathy Jo Carter, Indiana

1 st Place	Michael Spears	The Language of Rhythm	Sandy
2 nd Place	Michael E. Strosahl	Leaving the Homestead	DeKalb, Illinois
3 rd Place	Twila Wood	Indian Love Call	Smithfield
1 st HM	Chase Peterson	A Dark Detour	Layton
2 nd HM	Russell Asplund	When Grownups Speak of War	Layton
3 rd HM	Joel Passey	Walkabout	Layton

22. VERA ISADORE PEARCE SPEARS MEMORIAL

20 entries (1 disqualified)

Sponsor: Children of Anna Louise Spears

Judge: Cade Huie, Texas

1 st Place	Crystie Cook	Journey to the Coral Canyon	Sandy
2 nd Place	Shawn Dallas Stradley	Tomorrow Granada	Salt Lake City
3 rd Place	Michael E. Strosahl	Terminus	DeKalb, Illinois
1 st HM	Michael Shoemaker	Sometimes It Takes A Road	Magna
2 nd HM	Pam Tucker	Where Do You Think You're Going?	Washington
3 rd HM	Lorraine Jeffery	To Go	Orem

23. BETTY FOWLER MEMORIAL

23 entries (2 disqualified)

Sponsor: Candy Lish Fowler & Bill Fowler

Judge: Kathy Gerstorff, Indiana

1 st Place	Jerri Hardesty	Just Listening	Brierfield, Alabama
2 nd Place	V. Kimball Barney	Tail of a Skunk	Kaysville
3 rd Place	Michael Spears	The Last Goodbye	Sandy
1 st HM	Donna Geise	Ruby	Owens Cross Roads, Alabama
2 nd HM	Larry A. Hansen	Utah's Highway 40	Roy
3 rd HM	Michael Parker	Independence Day 2024	Orem

24. ANN LARSON MEMORIAL

38 entries (4 disqualified)

Sponsor: Candy Lish Fowler & Bill Fowler

Judge: Colin Chambers, Minnesota

1 st Place	Russell Asplund	A Retraction	Layton
2 nd Place	Joel Passey	Preserving Gratitude	Layton
3 rd Place	Michael Spears	Traveling Unfamiliar Ground	Sandy
1 st HM	Robert Rippy	Our Neighbor Across The Street	St. George
2 nd HM	Lorraine Jeffery	Drowning	Orem
3 rd HM	Markay Brown	Suspended	St. George

25. KOLETTE MONTAGUE MEMORIAL

Sponsor: Rhyme & Reason Chapter and Friends

1 st Place	Barbara Funke	Timing
2 nd Place	Doug Holm	October Roundup
3 rd Place	Joyce Kohler	Sequelae
1 st HM	Susan Foster	Pieces of Thread
2 nd HM	Shawn Dallas Stradley	There is
3 rd HM	Lorraine Jeffery	Shaky Legs

34 entries (0 disqualified)

Judge: Lola Haskins, Florida

St. George
Springville
Ephraim
Hurricane
Salt Lake City
Orem

26. ROSE OSTLER MEMORIAL

Sponsor: A friend of Rosalyn Ostler

1 st Place	Michael Strosahl	Wheatheads
2 nd Place	Donna Geise	The Pledge
3 rd Place	Sean Jones	Target Practice
1 st HM	Michael Spears	Distant Voices
2 nd HM	Louise Cook	In 'Nam
3 rd HM	Barbara Funke	Carrying the Medal of Honor

16 entries (3 disqualified)

Judge: Whitnee Coy, South Dakota

DeKalb, Illinois
Owens Cross Roads, Alabama
Monroe
Sandy
Sandy
St. George

27. NORMA ASPLUND REMEMBRANCE

Sponsor: The Asplund Family

1 st Place	Martha H. Balph	My Favorite Holiday: The Christmas Bird Count
2 nd Place	Louise Cook	Valencienne Valentine's Day
3 rd Place	Susan Randall	It's Magic
1 st HM	Markay Brown	Opera for Valentines
2 nd HM	Russell Asplund	Skele-Tony
3 rd HM	Crystie Cook	Pirates for Thanksgiving

17 entries (0 disqualified)

Judge: Carol Barrett, Oregon

Millville
Sandy
Orem
St. George
Layton
Sandy

28. STEVEN LEITCH MEMORIAL

Sponsor: Steven Leitch Memorial Fund

1 st Place	Twila Wood	May Reverie
2 nd Place	Jerri Hardesty	Poetry Practice
3 rd Place	Eva Coca-Lucero	In Perpetuity
1 st HM	Michael Spears	August Inspiration
2 nd HM	Jolayne Nelson	The Music in Room 284
3 rd HM	Michael Strosahl	In the Garden of my Mind

27 entries (1 disqualified)

Judge: Naomi Timm, Utah

Smithfield
Brierfield, Alabama
West Jordan
Sandy
St. George
DeKalb, Illinois

29. HAIKU

Sponsor: UTSPS

1 st Place	Chase Peterson	"Lightly pressed paw prints"
2 nd Place	Robert V. Davis	"hot halogen light"
3 rd Place	V. Kimball Barney	"tobacco worker"
1 st HM	Joel Passey	"Canadian flocks"
2 nd HM	Jerri Hardesty	"Transplanted roses"
3 rd HM	Louise Cook	"Pussy willows sway"

27 entries (1 disqualified)

Judge: Charmaine Donovan, Minnesota

Layton
West Haven
Kaysville
Layton
Brierfield, Alabama
Sandy

30. ZARA SABIN MEMORIAL

Sponsor: Zara Sabin Memorial Fund

36 entries (7 disqualified)

Judge: Brock Dethier, Utah

1 st Place	Jerri Hardesty	Bleeding	Brierfield, Alabama
2 nd Place	Pam Tucker	Owning it	Washington
3 rd Place	Robert Rippy	Lullaby	St. George
1 st HM	Crystie Cook	Fear in the Fog	Sandy
2 nd HM	Grace Diane Jessen	Midnight Fire	Glenwood
3 rd HM	Maurine Haltiner	Of a Butterfly & Starlight	Salt Lake City

31. MEAGHER MEMORIAL

Sponsor: Meagher Memorial Fund UTSPS

26 entries (1 disqualified)

Judge: Jerri Hardesty, Alabama

1 st Place	V. Kimball Barney	Pilfered Peanuts	Kaysville
2 nd Place	Susan Randall	Don't	Orem
3 rd Place	Shawn Dallas Stradley	How They Met	Salt Lake City
1 st HM	Russell Asplund	Notes on Recent Discoveries in the Field of Quantum Literature	Layton
2 nd HM	Martha H. Balph	The Poetry-Book Contest: Going for the Gold?	Millville
3 rd HM	Jane Randall	Kill the Drill	Centerville

32. ROBERTS MEMORIAL

Sponsor: Roberts Memorial Fund

28 entries (3 disqualified)

Judge: Lenore Madden, Utah

1 st Place	Twila Wood	Lake Powell Thunderstorm	Smithfield
2 nd Place	Crystie Cook	A Road Past Fort Bridger, Wyoming	Sandy
3 rd Place	Michael E. Strosahl	Pembroke, Near the Waters	DeKalb, Illinois
1 st HM	Jane Randall	Selah	Centerville
2 nd HM	Michael Shoemaker	Forgetting Dirt and Earth	Magna
3 rd HM	Joyce Kohler	When Rain Comes to a Dry Land	Ephraim

33. SHORT POEM: CRAWFORD MEMORIAL

Sponsor: Crawford Memorial Fund

35 entries(5 disqualified)

Judge: Robert Christmas, Utah

1 st Place	Robert Rippy	Dry Bones	St. George
2 nd Place	Andrew Luke	Inheritance	American Fork
3 rd Place	Barbara Funke	Indigenous Finger Bowls	St. George
1 st HM	Marney Hilton Zambrano	Passionate Epiphany	Nampa, Idaho
2 nd HM	Larry A. Hanson	March Day	Roy
3 rd HM	Jerri Hardesty	Temptation	Brierfield, Alabama

34. LLOYD MURRAY LIGHT VERSE

Sponsor: Lloyd Murray Memorial Fund

16 entries (2 disqualified)

Judge: Susan Chambers, Minnesota

1 st Place	V. Kimball Barney	Tit for Tat	Kaysville
2 nd Place	Susan Randall	On Getting Old	Orem
3 rd Place	Jerri Hardesty	Grin	Brierfield, Alabama
1 st HM	Grace Diane Jessen	Changing Times	Glenwood
2 nd HM	Chase Peterson	My Cow Sue	Layton
3 rd HM	Joyce Kohler	Hurrah	Ephraim

35. LEROY MEAGHER SONNET

Sponsor: Meagher Memorial Fund

14 entries (3 disqualified)

Judge: Nan Seymour, Utah

1 st Place	Shawn Dallas Stradley	Stargazing	Salt Lake City
2 nd Place	Martha H. Balph	Sleeping Beauty	Millville
3 rd Place	Joyce Kohler	Old Apples	Ephraim
1 st HM	Susan Randall	They Say	Orem
2 nd HM	Crystie Cook	A Sunrise in His Eyes	Sandy
3 rd HM	Grace Diane Jessen	Earth's Unanswered Questions	Glenwood

36. SHOOT for the LOOT

Sponsor: UTSPS

21 entries (4 disqualified)

Judge: Michael Lavers, Utah

1 st Place	Jane Randall	Good Enough	Centerville
2 nd Place	Shawn Dallas Stradley	Temple to Dimitri	Salt Lake City
3 rd Place	Joyce Kohler	Looking Outward	Ephraim
1 st HM	Russell Asplund	Springtime Lamentation	Layton
2 nd HM	JoLea Johnson	East Bench Above the City	Hyde Park
3 rd HM	Susan Foster	The Conundrum of Baby Birds	Hurricane

ALICE MORREY SWEEPSTAKES AWARD

2nd	24 Points	Pam Tucker
3rd	23 Points	Markay Brown
4th	22 Points	Joyce Kohler
4th	22 Points	Robert Rippy
6th	21 Points	V. Kimball Barney
6th	21 Points	Twila Wood
8th	20 Points	Jane Randall
8th	20 Points	Crystie Cook
10th	19 Points	Michael Spears

1st PLACE

25 points	Jerri Hardesty	Brierfield, Alabama
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2025 BOOK PUBLICATION AWARD

HONORABLE MENTIONS

3rd HM	Paul Ford	<i>As Before, After Us</i>
2nd HM	Lisa Gustavson	<i>Tin Can Luminescence</i>
1st HM	David Clark Knowlton	<i>In a Foreign Place</i>

WINNERS

3rd place	Shawn Dallas Stradley	<i>Refolding Maps</i>
2nd Place	Pam Tucker	<i>Bright Points In Darkness</i>
1st Place	Martha Hatch Balph	<i>The Entire Sky</i>

MISCELLANEOUS CONTEST DETAILS

Money Received from Contest Sponsors— \$3,767.40

Total Money Received from Contestants— \$1,453.00

Total # of Contest Categories— 36

Total # of Poems Received— 1,046

Total # of Poems Disqualified— 72

Total # of Contributing Poets— 64

Total # of States Represented— 10; the following list represents the state and the number of poets who submitted to the contest: AL (2); CO (1); GA (2); ID (1); IL (2); IN (2); KS (1); MS (1); NV (1); TX (2); UT (49); the following list displays the name of the state = # of awards won for the state: AL (9); CO (2); GA (0); ID (0); IL (5); IN (2); KS (0); MS (0); NV (0); TX (2); UT (86)

Total # of Non-members who Won a Cash Prize— 4

Total # of Cash Prize Winners— 36