West Virginia Writers, Inc.
Annual Contest Winners
2023

Long Poetry (judged by Marianne Worthington)

First Place: “Hiking Kaymoor Miner Trail” by Jimmy Long of Charleston, WV
Second Place: “The Black Earth” by Don Narkevic of Buckhannon, WV
Third Place: “Manifest Destiny” by Bonnie Proudfoot of Athens, OH
Honorable Mention: “The Day All Women Saw Red” by Jenna Lapointe of Morgantown, WV

Short Poetry (judged by Mary Barbara Moore)

First Place: “Self-portrait as Mothman” by Ian Williams of Fairmont, WV
Second Place: “Williamson” by John Yost of Martinsburg, WV
Third Place: “Against Xmas” by Mary Ann Honaker of Beaver, WV
Honorable Mention: “Kaymoor” by Jamie Johnson of Fayetteville, WV

Short Story (judged by Jim Minick)

First Place: “Common Ground” by Karin Fuller of Hinton, WV
Second Place: “Fire in the Hole” by Louis Schlesinger of Shelby, WV
Third Place: “Adipose” by Kathleen Furby of Independence, WV
Honorable Mention: “Neighbors” by Kathleen Furby of Independence, WV

Non-Fiction (judged by Charles Ryan)

First Place: “A Girl, A Dog, and A Rowdy Blue Jay” by Nancy Merical of Ripley, WV
Second Place: “The Subaru” by Sheryl Browne of Charleston, WV
Third Place: “Stanley Speaks” by Connie Kinsey of Ona, WV
Honorable Mention: “Sins and Stones: The Mystery of the Grave Creek Mound” by Jack Mason of Charleston, WV

Appalachian Writing (judged by Jayne Moore Waldrop)

First Place: “Yup” by Karin Fuller of Hinton, WV
Second Place: “The Beekeeper” by Cheryl Kula of Hinton, WV
Third Place: “Mea Culpa” by Donald Becher of Charleston, WV
Honorable Mention: “Adipose” by Kathleen Furby of Independence, WV

Special Topic: Life in the Pandemic (judged by Mary Ladd)

First Place: “Isolation Spring” by Laura Whittington of Eleanor, WV
Second Place: “The Hallway” by John Wimer of Arthurdale, WV
Third Place: “Neighbors” by Kathleen Furby of Independence, WV
Honorable Mention: “Adipose” by Kathleen Furby of Independence, WV
Emerging Writers Prose (judged by Tony Viola)

First Place: “Waiting to be Seen” by Leslie Kenney of Charleston, WV
Second Place: “Villa Vida - Generations” by Robin Blakeman of South Point, OH
Third Place: “The Reunion” by J.D. Wilson of Beckley, WV
Honorable Mention: “Death Angel” by Kathy Shool of Shepherdstown, WV

F. Ethan Fischer Memorial Award for Emerging Poetry (judged by Dr. Chris Green)

First Place: “Porch Swings” by Laura Ford of Scarbro, WV
Second Place: “Memories” by Duncan Crowley of Huntington, WV
Third Place: “Where the Wild Gooseberries Grow” by Tierney Chapman of St. Albans, WV
Honorable Mention: “Tiny Toes” by Megan Humphreys of Cross Lanes, WV

Pearl S. Buck Award for Social Change (judged by Neema Avashia)

First Place: “Uvalde” by Laura Whittington of Eleanor, WV
Second Place: “Persons Unknown” by Barbara Marie Minney of Tallmadge, WV
Third Place: “Mea Culpa” by Donald Becher of Charleston, WV
Honorable Mention: “Postcards From Mother Earth” by Jim Koenig of Harpers Ferry, WV

Joe McCabe Memorial Script Award (judged by Michael Murdock)

First Place: Merry Murder! A Holiday Whodunit by Jonathan Joy of Huntington, WV
Second Place: Pagan Century by Jeremiah Munsey of Morgantown, WV
Third Place: Dispatches From the Family Newsletter by Jonathan Joy of Huntington, WV
Honorable Mention: Disillusion by Nathaniel Patterson of Charleston, WV

Children’s Book (judged by Anna Egan Smucker)

First Place: The Legend of White Beard by Janet Smart of Ripley, WV
Second Place: Ghoulish Garden by Susan Nicholas of Huntington, WV
Third Place: Unicorns, Fairies, and Chris by Donald Becher of Charleston, WV
Honorable Mention: Monkeys in the Tree by Patty Peckham of Huntington, WV

Book Length Prose (judged by Wiley Cash)

First Place: Entanglement by Sheryl Browne of Charleston, WV
Second Place: Waiting to be Seen by Leslie Kenney of Charleston, WV
Third Place: Green Creek by George Lies of Morgantown, WV
Honorable Mention: Fire and Water: Book One of the Rayleigh Myers Adventures by Alan Simms of Morgantown, WV
Friday People’s Choice - Poetry

First Place: “Too” by Wilma Acree
Second Place: “Monster vs Monster” by Melinda Tauler
Third Place: “Two Gates” by Lisa Hayes-Minney

Friday People’s Choice - Prose

First Place: Unknown
Second Place: “Young Ladies Shouldn’t Walk” by Marion R. Kee
Third Place: “The Chef Who Loved Me” by Suzanne Alexander

Oops!

Somehow, we lost some of the information on the People’s Choice contest, and despite our best efforts, we could not track down the First Place winner for Friday’s Prose. We apologize for this. Please contact us if you know who won!
Saturday People’s Choice - Poetry

First Place: “Countdown” by Nancy Merical
Second Place: “Kodak Moments” by Brad Mills
Third Place: “A Knight’s Ride” by Derek Gilman

Saturday People’s Choice - Prose

First Place: “My Nursing Home Angel” by Janet Smart
Second Place: “My Friend, Art” by Melinda Tauler
Third Place: “Stalking Paper” by Devonne Brown

Writers’ Wall - Poetry

First Place: “The Wild Woman” by Brad Mills
Second Place: “Blackberry Memories” by Janet Smart
Third Place: “Calling in Sick” by Cheryl Denise

Writers’ Wall - Prose

First Place: “Dance for the Dead” by M. Lynne Squires
Second Place: “Chimneys to Nowhere” by Jessica Nelson
Third Place: “Carefully Taught” by Kathie Giltinan
New Mountain Voices Winners 2023

Grades K–5 (judged by Diane Tarantini)

First Place: “Jerry the Rat” by Charles Davis of Charleston, WV
Second Place: “The Boy Who Went Fishing” by Thomas Gill of Elkview, WV
Third Place: “A Flower’s Journey” by Kamryn Sims of Williamsburg, WV
Honorable Mention: “The Choice Is Yours - The Escape” by Elliott Kieran of Martinsburg, WV

Grades 6–8 (judged by Audrey Stanton Smith)

First Place: “Listen to Me” by Elliot Ake of Fayetteville, WV
Second Place: “Beauty” by Clara Swank of Fayetteville, WV
Third Place: “The Curse that Reigns” by Tyler Meadows of Crawley, WV

Grades 9–12 (judged by Karin Fuller)

First Place: “The Red Taxi” by Trista Steinemann of Romney, WV
Second Place: “Puzzle Girl” by Tiana Tauber of Parkersburg, WV
Third Place: “Somewhere Between Then and Now” by Gracelyn Payne of Charleston, WV
Honorable Mention: “A Conversation” by Trista Steinemann of Romney, WV