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Press Release

For Immediate Release
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Fresno County Public Library Poetry Contest Awards Ceremony

The Fresno County Public Library (FCPL) held its Poetry Contest Awards Ceremony on Sunday, May 22, 2016 at the Betty Rodriguez Regional Library.

This year there was a total of 147 poems submitted. The prizes, provided by the Friends of the Fresno County Public Library, are \$100 gift card for first place, \$50 gift card for second place, \$25 gift card for third place and two honorable mention recipients were awarded certificates in each category. The winning poems were picked by a panel of four local writers and authors. The winning poems are as follow:

In the grades 3-6 category, honorable mentions are “Kitten Eyes” by Luke Wong and “I Am” by Jackson Ivener. Third place is “Springtime” by Rebekah Krumpe, second place is “A Gift for the Sun” by Ellie Matlak and first place is “An Ant’s Point of View” by Kira Chapman.

For the 7-8 grades category, honorable mentions went to “The Courtroom in Maycomb County” by Ben Spain and “Color Me RAD” by Sarah Elsberry. Third place is “Reflections on Diego Rivera’s, The Flower Seller” by Savannah Grier, second place goes to “Death in the Air” by Vijay Stephen and first place is “My Journey to the Moon” by Elena Smith.

In the grades 9-12 category, honorable mentions are “Two Horses That Are Not Mine” by Lily Kahn and “Finding Myself” by Ashlee Agundiz. Third place is “Identity: Human” by Kaede Acuna, second place is “A Day in the Tobacco Fields (Through the Eyes of a Teenage Tobacco Laborer)” by Felicia Zhornitsky, and first place is “Graphite” by Vivian Aila De La Cruz.

For the Adults category, the honorable mentions are “I’ve Made a Fool’s Promise” by Thomas Nance and “Ungeziefer” by Derek McGuire. Third place is “Mall Date” by Erica Carlson, second place is “Toxic” by Shareca Coleman and first place is “Summer Evening ‘56” by Henry Gomez.

In addition to the awards, attendees were treated to two poetry readings by the current Fresno Poet Laureate, Lee Herrick and former Fresno Poet Laureate, James Tyner.

Audiences overflowed into the main area of the library as the crowd packed the standing room only conference room. “The attendance at today’s awards ceremony is a clear statement that poetry is alive and well in Fresno County,” said County Librarian, Laurel Prysiazny, who was on hand to MC the event and congratulate the winning poets.

Please call (559) 600-READ (7323) or visit our website, www.fresnolibrary.org for more information.

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