

UTSPS 2026 WINNERS' LIST

1. WILD CARD AWARD

98 entries (7 disqualified)

Sponsor: Poets Who Enter

Judge: Steve Sanders, TX

1 st Place	Candy Lish Fowler	Act III	St. George, UT
2 nd Place	Martha Balph	In a Mother's Voice She Told Me	Millville, UT
3 rd Place	Michael Spears	Wild Asparagus	Sandy, UT
1 st HM	Robert Rippy	Death of a Distant Cousin, Three Years Old	St. George, UT
2 nd HM	Chase Peterson	English is Phun	Layton, UT
3 rd HM	Doug Holm	They Started without Me	Springville, UT

2. MATHEW J. LIMBURG CHRIST-CENTERED POETRY

30 entries (0 disqualified)

Sponsor: Michael Shoemaker

Judge: Robert Christmas, UT

1 st Place	Lorraine Jeffery	The Other Book	Orem, UT
2 nd Place	Russell Asplund	On the Reading of Parables	Layton, UT
3 rd Place	Markay Brown	Considering Faith	St. George, UT
1 st HM	Mike Wahl	For Keeping Me Intact	Athens, AL
2 nd HM	Doug Holm	Move Along Folks	Springville, UT
3 rd HM	Donna Geise	Song to My Father	Owens Cross Roads, AL

3. DALE H. KOHLER MEMORIAL AWARD

41 entries (0 disqualified)

Sponsor: Joyce Kohler

Judge: N. Colwell Snell, UT

1 st Place	Jolayne Nelson	Sound Bath	St. George, UT
2 nd Place	Lynda La Rocca	Finale	Salida, CO
3 rd Place	Crystie Cook	Earthquake in Guayanilla, Puerto Rico	Sandy, UT
1 st HM	Jerri Hardesty	Juggling	Brierfield, AL
2 nd HM	Markay Brown	Heavy as Marble	St. George, UT
3 rd HM	Robert Rippy	"Living is getting old"	St. George, UT

4. ORVILLE WEBB AWARD

28 entries (0 disqualified)

Sponsor: Anonymous

Judge: Brock Dethier, ME

1 st Place	Tiffani Smith	Wallflower	Washington, UT
2 nd Place	Markay Brown	Conjuring 1948	St. George, UT
3 rd Place	Candy Lish Fowler	Passenger	St. George, UT
1 st HM	Robert Rippy	Me and the Bee	St. George, UT
2 nd HM	Jolayne Nelson	Rapture in Sandstone	St. George, UT
3 rd HM	Megan May Holm	Kind Alchemy	Logan, UT

5. BETTY FOWLER MEMORIAL—BETTER BELIEVE IT

26 entries (0 disqualified)

Sponsor: Bill Fowler and Candy Lish Fowler

Judge: Mary Beth Bretzlauf, IL

1 st Place	Barbara Funke	Urban Landscape	St. George, UT
2 nd Place	Candy Lish Fowler	Late Night Vinyl with Erroll Garner	St. George, UT

3 rd Place	Sara Gipson	Country Roads Should Lead Me Home	Scott, AR
1 st HM	Jerri Hardesty	Sweet Home	Brierfield, AL
2 nd HM	Eva Coca-Lucero	A Good Question	West Jordan, UT
3 rd HM	Joel Passey	Meet Me at Portillo's	Layton, UT

6. ANN C. LARSON MEMORIAL

37 entries (2 disqualified)

Sponsor: Bill Fowler and Candy Lish Fowler

Judge: Rob Carney, UT

1 st Place	Pam Tucker	Felled	Washington, UT
2 nd Place	Grace Diane Jessen	Wishing	Glenwood, UT
3 rd Place	Markay Brown	Hoping to be plucked into heaven	St. George, UT
1 st HM	Steven Cowling	Morning with Rain	Roosevelt, UT
2 nd HM	Candy Lish Fowler	The Evolution of Wings	St. George, UT
3 rd HM	Melodie Ashley	Lit	South Jordan, UT

7. VERNA HARTSOE CHIONG MEMORIAL

21 entries (0 disqualified)

Sponsor: Raven Chiong Memorial Fund

Judge: Lola Haskins, FL

1 st Place	Jerri Hardesty	Underground (WWII)	Brierfield, AL
2 nd Place	Candy Lish Fowler	Around Her Table	St. George, UT
3 rd Place	Donna Geise	Red Mud	Owens Cross Roads, AL
1 st HM	Michael Spears	Tua-toots on a Bet	Sandy, UT
2 nd HM	Louise Cook	Elizabeth	Sandy, UT
3 rd HM	Astraea Chaumette	Absolution	Washington, UT

8. STEVEN LEITCH MEMORIAL AWARD

31 entries (2 disqualified)

Sponsor: Steven Leitch Memorial Fund

Judge: Polly Opsahl, MI

1 st Place	Candy Lish Fowler	The Palette	St. George, UT
2 nd Place	Barbara Funke	God Particle Unbound	St. George, UT
3 rd Place	Megan May Holm	Make Me a Freeway Weed	Logan, UT
1 st HM	Twila Wood	Roots	Smithfield, UT
2 nd HM	Jolayne Nelson	The Music in Room 284	St. George, UT
3 rd HM	Michael Spears	August Inspiration	Sandy, UT

9. PAT BADER'S CELEBRATION OF LIVING

27 entries (0 disqualified)

Sponsor: Bob Bader

Judge: Pat Barnes, MI

1 st Place	Pam Tucker	Dear Fairy Godmother	Washington, UT
2 nd Place	Jane Randall	Grilling Granddad	Centerville, UT
3 rd Place	Twila Wood	Winter Birch	Smithfield, UT
1 st HM	Crystie Cook	Mrs. McLump Teaches Her Cats to Rollerskate	Sandy, UT
2 nd HM	Kim Barney	Floppy Sue	Kaysville, UT
3 rd HM	Martha Balph	Pail Pals	Millville, UT

10. NAD RICHARD BROWN MEMORIAL

41 entries (3 disqualified)
Judge: Dr. Karen Betstadt, CO

Sponsor: Markay Brown

1 st Place	Louise Cook	Prayer for Kent	Sandy, UT
2 nd Place	Justin Kennington	Arizona Road Trip	Payson, UT
3 rd Place	Markay Brown	The Calm Before	St. George, UT
1 st HM	Megan May Holm	Stakes	Logan, UT
2 nd HM	Sara Gipson	Remember Jane	Scott, AR
3 rd HM	Jolayne Nelson	Freed Verse	St. George, UT

11. RACHEL OLSEN MEMORIAL

36 entries (0 disqualified)
Judge: Diane Glancy, TX

Sponsor: Grace Diane Jessen

1 st Place	Lynda La Rocca	The Time Of	Salida, CO
2 nd Place	Barbara Funke	Duned Barn with Silo	St. George, UT
3 rd Place	Lorraine Jeffery	Teaching English to a Non-English Speaker	Orem, UT
1 st HM	Pam Tucker	Sentinel	Washington, UT
2 nd HM	Kirsten Turnbow	Autumn	American Fork, UT
3 rd HM	Doug Holm	Wilberg	Springville UT

12. NORMA ASPLUND MEMORIAL

19 entries (0 disqualified)
Judge: Bill Abbott, OH

Sponsor: The Asplund family

1 st Place	Kim Barney	He's Part of Me	Kaysville, UT
2 nd Place	Cynthia Cockriel	Timeless	Overland Park, KS
3 rd Place	Michael Spears	Ripening In the Fringes	Sandy, UT
1 st HM	Jane Randall	Johnny's Funeral	Centerville, UT
2 nd HM	Lorraine Jeffery	Still Friends	Orem, UT
3 rd HM	Kristal Sullivan	My Friend	Hurricane, UT

13. WOMEN TRAILBLAZERS AWARD

25 entries (1 disqualified)
Judge: Shanan Ballam, ME

Sponsor: Marilyn Marshall

1 st Place	Markay Brown	The art of losing isn't hard to master...	St. George, UT
2 nd Place	Martha Balph	Notre Dame	Millville, UT
3 rd Place	Michael Spears	Grandmother Alice's Lovely Glow	Sandy, UT
1 st HM	Twila Wood	Deep Canyon	Smithfield, UT
2 nd HM	Kirsten Turnbow	Spread Far	American Fork, UT
3 rd HM	Joel Passey	Tranhumance	Layton, UT

14. ODD SQUARE POEM

22 entries (2 disqualified)
Judge: Stuart Watkins, AZ

Sponsor: Kim Barney

1 st Place	Bill Fowler	Ute Woman	St. George, UT
2 nd Place	Crystie Cook	Fast and Furry-ous Mid-day Break	Sandy, UT
3 rd Place	Martha Balph	Sea Stars	Millville, UT
1 st HM	Michael Spears	What's in a Name?	Sandy, UT

2 nd HM	Jerri Hardesty	Still Life	Brierfield, AL
3 rd HM	Markay Brown	Bird Beguiled	St. George, UT

15. ROSALYN OSTLER MEMORIAL AWARD

24 entries (1 disqualified)

Sponsor: Protégé of Rosalyn Ostler

Judge: Peter Stein, MN

1 st Place	Lorraine Jeffery	Borders, Walls, and Lines	Orem, UT
2 nd Place	Cynthia Cockriel	Can I Tell You Something?	Overland Park, KS
3 rd Place	Kristal Sullivan	Planting a Garden	Hurricane, UT
1 st HM	Melodie Ashley	Artificial	South Jordan, UT
2 nd HM	Megan May Holm	Melon Collie	Logan, UT
3 rd HM	Grace Diane Jessen	An Uncertain Truce	Glenwood, UT

16. VERA ISADORE PEARCE SPEARS MEMORIAL

14 entries (2 disqualified)

Sponsor: Anna Louise Spears family

Judge: Lee Taylor, UT

1 st Place	Lorraine Jeffery	The Ballad of Blind Amanda	Orem, UT
2 nd Place	Jane Randall	Rushmore	Centerville, UT
3 rd Place	Kim Barney	Old Paint	Kaysville, UT
1 st HM	Kristal Sullivan	Home on the Range	Hurricane, UT
2 nd HM	Bill Fowler	The Cat's Meow	St. George, UT
3 rd HM	Louise Cook	Gettin' Groceries, Utah 1870	Sandy, UT

17. KOLETTE MONTAGUE MEMORIAL AWARD

39 entries (1 disqualified)

Sponsor: Rhyme & Reason chapter

Judge: Jess Brown, UT

1 st Place	Lorraine Jeffery	Dementia	Orem, UT
2 nd Place	Martha Balph	Eyes in the Dark	Millville, UT
3 rd Place	Markay Brown	Pass the Salt	St. George, UT
1 st HM	Pam Tucker	Singing to Yourself	Washington, UT
2 nd HM	Robert Rippy	Letter to Mom	St. George, UT
3 rd HM	Doug Holm	Identity Rekindled	Springville, UT

18. BEN LOMOND CHAPTER AWARD

28 entries (0 disqualified)

Sponsor: Ben Lomond chapter

Judge: Kathy Jo Carter, IN

1 st Place	Donna Geise	Windows	Owen Cross Roads, AL
2 nd Place	Jane Randall	Good Grief	Centerville, UT
3 rd Place	Larry Hansen	The Fire Pit	Roy, UT
1 st HM	Jerri Hardesty	Welcome to My Mind	Brierfield, AL
2 nd HM	Steven Cowling	Discontinuity	Roosevelt, UT
3 rd HM	Kim Barney	Snakes in School	Kaysville, UT

19. VALLEY WINDS CHAPTER AWARD

27 entries (0 disqualified)

Sponsor: Valley Winds Chapter

Judge: Gail Jennings, UT

1 st Place	Chase Peterson	Gratitude is Gray	Layton, UT
2 nd Place	Doug Holm	Grease Traps	Springville, UT

3 rd Place	Loraine Jeffery	For the Bread	Orem, UT
1 st HM	Mike Mohrman	Golden Magic	Millcreek, UT
2 nd HM	Jerri Hardesty	Unexpected Mail	Brierfield, AL
3 rd HM	Markay Brown	Cherishing the Body	St. George, UT

20. DOROTHY L. & PAUL ROBERTS MEMORIAL

34 entries (0 disqualified)

Sponsor: Roberts Memorial Fund

Judge: Kimberly Johnson, UT

1 st Place	Pam Tucker	Windfall	Washington, UT
2 nd Place	Jane Randall	October	Centerville, UT
3 rd Place	Doug Holm	Delicate Arch	Springville, UT
1 st HM	Justin Kennington	One Time the Poet May Have Gotten It Wrong	Payson, UT
2 nd HM	Megan May Holm	Heavy Metal	Logan, UT
3 rd HM	Barbara Funke	Valley Paradise	St. George, UT

21. LEROY MEAGHER SONNET

20 entries (2 disqualified)

Sponsor: Meagher Memorial Fund

Judge: Michael Lavers, UT

1 st Place	Doug Holm	Quaking	Springville, UT
2 nd Place	Justin Kennington	Sonnet on Teaching Sonnets to the Twelfth Grade and the Choice To So Do	Payson, UT
3 rd Place	Bill Fowler	Shakespearean Sonnet	St. George, UT
1 st HM	Sara Gipson	Bucky the Beaver	Scott, AR
2 nd HM	Jane Randall	Perk	Centerville, UT
3 rd HM	Lorraine Jeffery	Ancestor	Orem, UT

22. MEAGHER MEMORIAL

26 entries (0 disqualified)

Sponsor: Meagher Memorial Fund

Judge: Cade Huie, TX

1 st Place	Joel Passey	If I Were	Layton, UT
2 nd Place	Michael Spears	Getting around It	Sandy, UT
3 rd Place	Kim Barney	Keeping Secrets	Kaysville, UT
1 st HM	Martha Balph	Losing to the Muse	Millville, UT
2 nd HM	Meagan May Holm	Denis the Menace	Logan, UT
3 rd HM	Chase Peterson	Nostrils: a True Story	Layton, UT

23. ZARA SABIN MEMORIAL

23 entries (1 disqualified)

Sponsor: Zara Sabin Memorial Fund

Judge: Sara Gipson, AR

1 st Place	Twila Wood	Hand Tied	Smithfield, UT
2 nd Place	Jane Randall	Outpouring	Centerville, UT
3 rd Place	Markay Brown	Some evenings when I miss you most	St. George, UT
1 st HM	Jerri Hardesty	January	Brierfield, AL
2 nd HM	Melissa Crowther	Flow	Ogden, UT
3 rd HM	Crystie Cook	Between Flame and Twilight	Sandy, UT

24. LLOYD MURRAY LIGHT VERSE

Sponsor: Lloyd Murray Memorial Fund

1 st Place	Kim Barney	Time for Ice Cream
2 nd Place	Joel Passey	Limerick
3 rd Place	Sara Gipson	A Perfect Lawn
1 st HM	Grace Diane Jessen	No Fun Getting Old
2 nd HM	Lauren Madsen	Favorite Weakness
3 rd HM	Bill Fowler	The Honeymoon

19 entries (1 disqualified)

Judge: Dave Welch, UT
Kaysville, UT
Layton, UT
Scott, AR
Glenwood, UT
Saratoga Springs, UT
St. George, UT

25. SHORT POEM—VESTA CRAWFORD MEMORIAL

Sponsor: Crawford Memorial Fund

1 st Place	Kristal Sullivan	Fairy Tale
2 nd Place	Martha Balph	Echoes
3 rd Place	Sara Gipson	Prairie Heritage
1 st HM	Kim Barney	Don't Let Me Linger
2 nd HM	Pam Tucker	Cravat
3 rd HM	Melissa Crowther	Three Words

31 entries (1 disqualified)

Judge: Sarah McLaughlin, OR
Hurricane, UT
Millville, UT
Scott, AR
Kaysville, UT
Washington, UT
Ogden, UT

26. REDROCK WRITERS FOUNDERS AWARD

Sponsor: Redrock Writers

1 st Place	Michael Spears	What Petal Is To Leaf, Bud Is To Flower
2 nd Place	Martha Balph	Sea Dream
3 rd Place	Joel Passey	He Had To Go and See
1 st HM	Kim Barney	Dying in the Desert
2 nd HM	Jerri Hardesty	Marbles in Space
3 rd HM	Doug Holm	The Human Element

28 entries (0 disqualified)

Judge: Ann Howells, TX
Sandy, UT
Millville, UT
Layton, UT
Kaysville, UT
Brierfield, AL
Springville, UT

27. DAVID F. & ROBERT H. BALPH MEMORIAL

Sponsor: Martha Balph

1 st Place	Lorraine Jeffery	Yellowstone Bison
2 nd Place	Pam Tucker	Red-winged Blackbirds
3 rd Place	Crystie Cook	Owl Across the Long-swept Grass
1 st HM	Kim Barney	A Majestic Creature
2 nd HM	Barbara Funke	Operation Bird Watch
3 rd HM	Kristen Turnbow	Gnats

21 entries (0 disqualified)

Judge: Laurie Kolp, TX
Orem, UT
Washington, UT
Sandy, UT
Kaysville, UT
St. George, UT
American Fork, UT

28. AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE AWARD

Sponsor: Martha Balph

1 st Place	Candy Lish Fowler	Ruins at Range Creek
2 nd Place	Kim Barney	A People Betrayed
3 rd Place	Twila Wood	Sham Bttle
1 st HM	Jerri Hardesty	Gaining a New Perspective

18 entries (1 disqualified)

Judge: Susan Chambers, MN
St. George, UT
Kaysville, UT
Smithfield, UT
Brierfield, AL

2 nd HM	Lorraine Jeffery	Navaho Turquoise	Orem, UT
3 rd HM	Sara Gipson	Where Old Military Road Leads	Scott, AR

29. HONORING U.F. & AGNES WOOD

24 entries (0 disqualified)

Sponsor: Marilyn Richardson

Judge: Whitnee Coy, SD

1 st Place	Barbara Funke	Migration	St. George, UT
2 nd Place	Candy Lish Fowler	<i>Flying down to Rio (Grande)</i>	St. George, UT
3 rd Place	Markay Brown	Leave-taking	St. George, UT
1 st HM	Crystie Cook	I Fly with Other Geese	Sandy, UT
2 nd HM	Melodie Ashley	Renewal	South Jordan, UT
3 rd HM	Lorraine Jeffery	To Go	Orem, UT

30. HAIKU AWARD

27 entries (0 disqualified)

Sponsor: UTSPS

Judge: Constance Brewer, WY

1 st Place	Markay Brown	Delicate rosebud	St. George, UT
2 nd Place	Martha Balph	hibernating buds	Millville, UT
3 rd Place	Chase Peterson	Leaves rustle, twigs shake	Layton, UT
1 st HM	Donna Geise	Silver maple leaves	Owens Cross Roads, AL
2 nd HM	Lorraine Jeffery	Spring peas awaken	Orem, UT
3 rd HM	Grace Diane Jessen	Red-breasted robins	Glenwood, UT