arts council of york county

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November 3, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

14th Annual Literary Competition - Short Fiction and Poetry

6th Annual Youth Literary Competition – Short Fiction and Poetry

Awards Announced

ROCK HILL, SC – The Arts Council of York County presented the awards for the 14th Annual Literary Competition and the 6th Annual Youth Literary Competition at a free, public reception honoring the awards recipients and participants, and celebrating National Family Literacy Month and National Novel Writing Month at the Center for the Arts, 121 E. Main St., Rock Hill, SC on Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 5:30 PM.

The Annual Literary Competitions include two categories - short story and poetry. Authors were eligible to enter both the short story and the poetry competitions, and entries were eligible to win an award in each category. Independent jurors were: members of the Perihelion Book Club; Earl Wilcox – Winthrop University Department of English, retired; and Winthrop University faculty - Melissa Gilbert - Adjunct Faculty, Instructor of English Mary Martin, and Assistant Professor Ephraim Sommers.

Winners of the 14th Annual Literary Competition – Poetry

**1st Place** – “August Photograph 1948” by Barbara Meetze, York, SC

**2nd Place** – “Roots” by Alex J. Stokas, Fort Mill, SC

**3rd Place** – “Bounce” by Joy Colter, Rock Hill, SC

**Honorable Mention** – “Our First Date Got Rained Out” by Laura Jane Burgess, Chester, SC

**Honorable Mention** – “Post 9-11 Sewing Circle” by Kate Roos, Oxford, MS

Winners of the 14th Annual Literary Competition – Short Story

**1st Place** – “Even the Tiniest Hand Can Hold a Diamond” by Brenda Sloan, Rock Hill, SC

**2nd Place** – “Creek Shoes” by Barbara Meetze, York, SC

**3rd Place** – “The Last Hike” by Hamilton C. Davis, York, SC

**Honorable Mention –** “Mother’s Day” by Mark A. Stevens, Pawleys Island, SC

**Honorable Mention –** “Reaping” by Blaine Parrish Scovil, Edgemoor, SC

Winners of the 6th Annual Youth Literary Competition – Poetry

**1st Place** – “Aftermath” by Audrey L. Kmeicik, Fort Mill, SC

**2nd Place** – “Where I’m From” by Lily Sutton, Fort Mill, SC

**3rd Place** – “Grandma” by Rachel Black, Rock Hill, SC

**Honorable Mention** – “Leafy Dance” by Zachary Ritz, Fort Mill, SC

**Honorable Mention** – “The Seasons” by Katelyn Rutledge, Fort Mill, SC

Winners of the 6th Annual Youth Literary Competition – Short Story

**1st Place** – “Beyond the Dream” by Ava Tufty, Fort Mill, SC

**2nd Place** – “More than Just a Dream” by Rachel Black, Rock Hill, SC

**3rd Place** – “Grandpa Said the Rainbows are Real” by Emma Scott, Tega Cay, SC

**Honorable Mention** – “The East Smiles” by Lauren North, York, SC

Prizes and awards for the 14th Annual Literary Competition and the 6th Annual Youth Literary Competition were underwritten by the Perihelion Club. The Perihelion Club, as a member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, began in 1898 as a literary and social club in Rock Hill. Over the years, club members, individually and as a club, have supported literacy in the community in a variety of ways - by conducting story hour at elementary schools, purchasing books for school libraries and funding a scholarship at Winthrop University. Today its members continue to share their love of literature with each other and to eagerly support literacy efforts in the community by raising funds at an auction held annually at its December meeting. The Perihelion Club is very proud to encourage writers of short stories and poetry by funding prizes for this competition.

The Arts Council is headquartered in downtown Rock Hill, a state-recognized cultural district. For more information on Arts Council events, contact the Arts Council of York County at

(803)328-2787, by email at [arts@yorkcountyarts.org](mailto:arts@yorkcountyarts.org), or visit our webpage at http://www.yorkcountyarts.org.

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