



Western NC Regional Online Poetry Competition

Produced by the Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC · www.caldwellarts.com

Sponsored by Blue Ridge Energy

Guidelines & Information

Caldwell Arts Council announces its "Western NC Regional Online Poetry Competition," featuring Final Judge Kari Gunter-Seymour, Poet Laureate of the state of Ohio and \$1200 in total cash awards!

Eligibility and Guidelines:

- Residents of the following 31 counties in western North Carolina are eligible to enter: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Davie, Forsyth, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Iredell, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, and Yancey.
- The deadline for entry is midnight, September 15, 2020.
- Entrants must be at least 18 years of age at time of submission.
- Each entrant may submit up to two original poems.
- Cost to enter is \$10 for up to two poems.
- ***All entries AND entry fees must be submitted electronically. See below for submission and payment details. No U.S.P.S. mailed entries, checks or cash will be accepted.***
- Poems must not have been written before January 1, 2019.
- Previously published poems are not eligible for submission.
- Poems can be of any subject matter or style; however the Caldwell Arts Council reserves the right to decline the written or audible posting/performance of any entered poem to its website, or other Arts Council platform due to its unsuitability for wide audiences as determined solely by the Caldwell Arts Council.
- Poems must be submitted electronically as a WORD document using .doc or .docx as your file extension.
- Poems cannot exceed 100 lines.
- All poems must be single spaced, in Times New Roman font, and be 12pt. type.
- Winning entrants must agree to allow their poems to be posted on the Caldwell Arts Council's website and/or to be used in subsequent marketing/promotional materials by the Caldwell Arts Council.
- Entrants reserve/keep all other publication rights.
- Caldwell Arts Council staff, board members and their immediate family members are ineligible to enter.

Judging, Awards, and Readings

- Final judge is Kari Gunter-Seymour, Poet Laureate of Ohio.
- Preliminary judge for the competition is David Prather of Parkersburg, West Virginia.
- Judges bio information may be found on the Caldwell Arts Council's "Regional Poetry Competition" webpage.
- The judges' decisions are final.
- \$1200 in monetary awards will be given and include five placed awards and five honorable mentions.
- 1st place award - \$500; 2nd place - \$250; 3rd place - \$150; 4th place - \$100; 5th place \$75.
Honorable mentions will be awarded \$25 each.
- Winners will be notified by October 15, 2020.
- There will be a public online poetry reading via Zoom showcasing the placed winners on October 22, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Participation in the reading by the winners is encouraged but not required. The two judges will also be reading from their personal works during the event. Additional information will be sent closer to the date.
- Winning poems will be posted on the Caldwell Arts Council's website.

How to Submit:

- Find submission and payment links on our website at <https://www.caldwellarts.com/401-regional-poetry-competition/>.
- Please attach only one document to your entry email by copying and pasting poems and entry info into a single document using the information as follows:
- Page one of the document is your contact information and should include: 1. Your name. 2. Your mailing address. 3. Your telephone number. 4. Your email address. 5. The title(s) of your poem(s). 6. A short bio of 60 words or less.
- Enter your first poem on page 2 of the document.
- If you submit a second poem, start it on page 3, or the next subsequent page if your first poem is longer than one page.
- All poems must be single spaced, set in Times New Roman font, and be in 12 pt. type.
- DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME ON ANY PAGE EXCEPT THE FIRST PAGE! Only the pages of the document containing the actual poem(s) will be forwarded to the judges.
- Title and save the document created as "Last Name_First Name" using your own last and first names.
- Either email your saved document as an attachment with "WNC Poetry Competition" as the subject line to WNCPoetryCompetition@caldwellarts.com or use the link on our website when you submit payment.
- Electronically submit your entry fee of \$10 by clicking the website link for payment via PayPal. You do not need a PayPal account to submit payment using this link. No cash or checks will be accepted.
- Poems and payment must be received by the Caldwell Arts Council by midnight, **September 15, 2020**.

This competition is made possible by the generosity of

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JUDGE BIOS:

David B. Prather, Preliminary Judge

Preliminary judge David B. Prather of Parkersburg, West Virginia is the author of *We Were Birds* (Main Street Rag Publishing). His work has appeared in several print and online journals, including *Prairie Schooner*, *Colorado Review*, *Poet Lore*, *Seneca Review*, *The Literary Review*, *Potomac Review*, *South Florida Poetry Review*, and many others. He studied with Tony Hoagland, Steve Orlen, Agha Shahid Ali, and Joan Aleshire at Warren Wilson College, and has taught literature and creative writing at West Virginia University-Parkersburg and at Marietta College in Ohio. He was the poetry editor of *Confluence* at Marietta College, and he hosted the Parkersburg Blennerhassett Reading Series, inviting established and emerging poets as presenters. His work has been selected by Naomi Shihab Nye for the anthology, *What Have You Lost?*

Kari Gunter-Seymour, Final Judge

Final judge Kari Gunter-Seymour is Poet Laureate of the state of Ohio. She is a ninth generation Appalachian and editor of the Women of Appalachia Project™ anthologies, "Women Speak," volumes 1-5 and "Essentially Athens Ohio," an anthology focused on landmarks, tales and experiences of those living in or deeply connected to Athens county. She holds a B.F.A. in graphic design and an M.A. in commercial photography and is a retired instructor in the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University. Kari also is the founder/executive director of the "Women of Appalachia Project," an arts organization she created to address discrimination directed at women from the Appalachian region.

Her poetry appears in various chapbooks and several publications, including *Rattle*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Main Street Rag*, *Stirring*, *Still*, *CALYX* and *The LA Times*. **Her chapbook "Serving" is available from Crisis Chronicles Press.** She has been nominated five times for a Pushcart Prize.

Gunter-Seymour also is an award winning photographer whose work has been published nationally in *The Sun Magazine*, *Light Journal*, *Looking at Appalachia*, *Storm Cellar Quarterly*, *Anthology of Appalachian Writers*, *Vine Leaves Journal* and *Appalachian Heritage Magazine*.