



January 25, 2016  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BEYOND BAROQUE LITERARY ARTS CENTER ANNOUNCES  
THE WINNERS OF ITS SIXTH ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST!**

Now in its sixth year, the 2015 the Beyond Baroque Poetry Contest was judged by award-winning poet, educator and editor, D.A. Powell. Over 900 entries were submitted to the contest, which is open to poets nationwide. Each winner receives a cash prize: first place \$1000; second place \$500; and third place receives \$250. In addition to the three top prizes, five runner-ups were also chosen. The winners and runners-up are chosen by a blind reading process and the judge does not know the authors of the poems. Judge D.A. Powell had this to say about his selections (before he knew who the authors were, the winners names were included at a later date):

First Place Winner, NO TURNING AWAY (by Kathleen Zeisler Goldman, Manhattan Beach, CA): Surprisingly, I chose one of the plainest spoken poems as the winner. There was something so spot on and direct about it, and truly it's a gift to write simply and meaningfully while still being innovative in idea and execution.

Second Place Winner, PLAYING LIFE WITH MY DAUGHTER (by Margaret Stawowy, Novato, CA): This poem takes a familiar game and turns into a lesson in life itself. Like Elizabeth Bishop's great villanelle, it shows that the art of losing really isn't hard to master. A beautiful, quietly moving poem.

Third Place Winner, MEDIUM RARE (by Judith Pacht, Murrieta, CA): This poem is raw and terrifying in its very essence, with short pulsing bursts of electric energy and chilling observations on the culture of bloodshed and its cost. Not just immediacy but an urgent, lasting keening grips the world herein.

Runners-up in alphabetical listing of the poem's title:  
DEAD RECKONING (by Justin Hunt, Charlotte NC)  
MARATHON (by Sharon Leah Batton, St. Petersburg, FL)  
STILL BAROQUE (by Carla Stout, Omaha, NE)  
SUMMER FRUIT (by Eric Berlin, Lysander, NY)  
TERRY: 1950-1970 (by Justin Hunt, Charlotte, NC)

A reading of the winning poems will be held at Beyond Baroque, as part of National Poetry Month, on Saturday, April 9, at 8:00 PM.

Beyond Baroque is one of the United States' leading independent Literary Arts Centers and public spaces dedicated to literary and cultural performance, outreach, and community building. Founded in 1968, and based in the Old Town Hall in Venice Beach, California, the Center houses a bookstore, archive, gallery and theater. The Center offers weekly readings, art exhibitions, and free workshops - all inspired by, and in the service of, the literary arts. Beyond Baroque is located at 681 Venice Boulevard, in Venice Beach, California, on the beautiful Pacific Coast.

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