

1st Grade Judge

Connie Swartzman

Connie Swartzman has been published in the Schuylkill Valley Journal and won first prize in poetry at the 2019 Philadelphia Writers' Conference. She taught kindergarten classes for over thirty years. She writes memoirs and poems and participates in writing classes and critique groups.

2nd Grade Judge

Emiliano Martin

Emiliano Martín, poet and author of many poetry Chapbooks as well as nine books. His latest title is "Unforgettable Moments-Love Poems," published in 2021. For over twenty four years he has assisted as a judge to Delaware County Young Poets Poetry Contest. He is also a former Executive Director of Latin American Guild for the Arts (LAGA). Presently and since 2018 he serves as President of Pennsylvania Poetry Society.

3rd Grade Judge

Richard Bank

Richard Bank is a retired attorney who is in his eightieth journey around the sun. He likes logs, bogs and hogs. He also likes dogs but the rhyme is off. He was happy to judge the Young Poets Event and enjoyed reading the third grade poems.

4th Grade Judge

Steve Delia

Steve Delia has been a past judge for this contest for several years. He has been involved with poetry in many capacities including reading, hosting, judging and workshops. He has been with the Madpoets for over 30 years. He has done poetry readings in all kinds of venues including coffee houses, libraries, book stores and radio. He has 7 books. His latest book is called Poetry Time and can be purchased through Amazon or him personally. He loves this event and seeing all the youngsters writing poetry.

5th Grade Judge
Abbey J. Porter

Abbey J. Porter writes poetry and memoirs about people and relationships, life and loss—sometimes even with a bit of humor. A Pennsylvania native, Abbey has been writing since she was a child. She holds an MFA in creative writing from Queens University of Charlotte, an MA in liberal studies from Villanova University, and a BA in English from Gettysburg College. Abbey works in communications and lives in Cheltenham, Pa., with her two beloved dogs—who help her remember to smile, particularly during these challenging times.

6th Grade Judge
Prabha Nayak Prabhu

Prabha Nayak Prabhu is a retired language teacher . Her articles have appeared in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and *The Delaware County Daily Times*. She has been published in several journals including *The Mad Poets Review*, *Schuylkill Valley Journal*, *Philadelphia Poets*, *The Fox Chase Review* and the *Anthology, Selfhood: Varieties of Experience*. Her chapbook *Layers* was published by Finishing Line Press in 2019.

7th Grade Judge
Brooke Palma

Brooke Palma grew up in Philadelphia and currently lives in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Many of her poems focus on the connections between culture and identity and finding beauty in the everyday. Her work has been published in *The Mad Poets' Review*, *Moonstone Arts*, *Toho Journal*, and *E-Verse Radio* (online), and work is forthcoming in *Unbearables: A Global Anthology*. Her chapbook, *Conversations Unfinished*, was published by The Moonstone Press in August 2019. She hosts the Livin' on Luck Poetry Series at Barnaby's West Chester.

8th Grade Judge
Mike Cohen

Mike Cohen is a local performance poet. His articles on sculpture appear in the *Schuylkill Valley Journal*.

9th Grade Judge

Amy Barone

Amy Barone's latest poetry collection, *We Became Summer*, from New York Quarterly Books, was released in 2018. She wrote chapbooks *Kamikaze Dance* (Finishing Line Press) and *Views from the Driveway* (Foothills Publishing.) Her poetry has appeared in *Local Knowledge*, *New Verse News*, *Paterson Literary Review*, *Sensitive Skin*, and *Standpoint* (UK), among other publications. She spent five years as Italian correspondent in Milan for *Women's Wear Daily* and *Advertising Age*. She belongs to the Poetry Society of America and the *brevitas* online poetry community that celebrates the short poem. A native of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, Barone lives in New York City.

10th Grade Judge

Stu O'Connor

Stu O'Connor is an educator, musician, and writer who has spent his life dedicated to the power of the word, the necessity of precision in language, and the human need for story as a method of transmitting culture, ideas, and understanding. He has been published in numerous literary and online sources including the *Mad Poets Review*, *Moonstone Poetry Writers Ink* anthologies, and *Silver Sage Magazine*, as well as performing music at many Philadelphia area venues and local radio broadcasts.

11th Grade Judge

Peter Baroth

Peter Baroth, writer, artist, and musician, is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis and Temple Law School. His novel is *Long Green* (iUniverse) and his book of poetry, *Lost Autographs* (Moonstone Press). He has been published in *Philadelphia Poets*, *Red Fez*, *Schuylkill Valley Journal*, *Apiary*, *Legal Studies Forum*, and elsewhere. He won the 2009 Amy Tritesch Needle Award, the 2016 Petracca Award, was a finalist for the Joie de Vivre book prize, has been nominated for Best of the Net, and is on *Philadelphia Stories'* editorial board. He lives in Media, PA with poet and professor Courtney Bambrick.

12th Grade Judge
Ray Greenblatt

Winning a Fourth Grade Short Story Writing Contest, Ray Greenblatt was spurred to continue writing more stories, poems, essays, plays, and even a novel. He earned a B.A. in English Literature at Eastern University and an M.A. in American Literature at the University of New Hampshire. He taught English to 7th-12th grade for over 40 years. He won the Mad Poets Annual Poetry Contest and was nominated three times for the Pushcart Prize. He has at present written 10,000 poems and recently wrote a book review for the Dylan Thomas Society.