

## 2024 YOUNG POETS POETRY CONTEST JUDGES

### 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 is a local poet and author of a dozen poetry books. He has judged for the DelCo YP Poetry Contest for over twenty-five years, as well as serving as a Judge for the Bucks County Poet Laureate 2020 Contest. He is a past president of the Pennsylvania Poetry Society and is very active in the poetry community. His latest poetry publications: “Caught Between Layers” (2022) and “Over Clouds of Cotton” (2023) are available on Amazon, and many other Internet outlets.

### 3RD GRADE JUDGE: RICHARD LORD

Richard Lord has written or co-written over 20 published books, including two chapbooks of poetry. He has had individual poems published in several print and online publications, most recently Southern Cross Review. A number of Lord's non-fiction books were written for elementary, middle, and high schools in Canada and the United States. Many of his short stories are published in anthologies or on Amazon Shorts as well as a novel, published in 2013. As a playwright, he has had two of his plays broadcast on BBC World Service, the second of which (The Boys At City Hall ...) was a BBC Highlight of the Month. His ten-minute play Exchanges was chosen as Best Play at the first Singapore Short & Sweet Festival.

### 4TH GRADE JUDGE: STEVE DELIA

Steve Delia has been writing poetry for 47 years. He has read in many venues including libraries, coffee houses, book- stores and other venues. He won 1st poetry at the 2015 Philadelphia Writers Conference. He has two books, *The Alphabet Concerto*, *Poetry Time* and the latest, *Raining With The Sun Out/1622 Church Street*. He is the host and co-coordinator for the Elkins Park Poetry program.

### 5TH GRADE JUDGE: ABBEY PORTER

Abbey 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.

### 6TH GRADE JUDGE: PRABHA PRABHU

Prabha 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 (she/her) 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). 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 and serves as Vice President/Treasurer for the Mad Poets Society.

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 poetry collection, *Defying Extinction*, was published by Broadstone Books in 2022. New York Quarterly Books released her collection, *We Became Summer*, in 2018. She wrote chapbooks, *Kamikaze Dance* (Finishing Line Press) and *Views from the Driveway* (Foothills Publishing.) Her poetry has appeared in *Martello Journal* (Ireland), *Muddy River Poetry Review*, *New Verse News*, *The Ocotillo Review* and *Paterson Literary Review*, among other publications. Barone spent five years as Italian correspondent for *Women's Wear Daily* and *Advertising Age*. She belongs to the *brevitas* online poetry community. From Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, she lives in New York City and Haverford, PA. Twitter: @AmyBBarone

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*, The Moonstone Anthologies, and elsewhere. He won the 2009 Amy Tritesch Needle Award, a 2016 Petracca Family 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.

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.