

46th ANNUAL  
POETRY CONTEST  
Award Ceremony  
May 27, 2021



Youth Services Division  
Silas Bronson Library  
267 Grand Street, Waterbury, CT 06702  
[www.bronsonlibrary.org/kids](http://www.bronsonlibrary.org/kids)

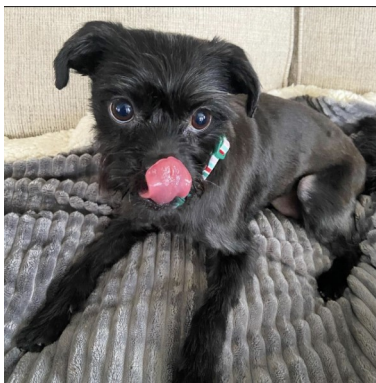


**SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY  
44TH ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST  
AWARDS CEREMONY  
MAY 27, 2021**

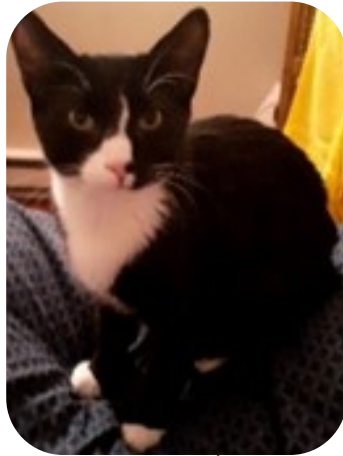
Library Director: Raechel Guest

**Silas Bronson Library**

Clivel Charlton, Head of Children, Adult, & Teen Services  
Anne Zadora, Librarian & Poetry Contest Coordinator  
Juleigh Paradise, Children's Librarian



Cassidy



Spooky

## Table of Contents

Meet the Librarians

Meet the Judges

From the Librarian's Desk

Poetry Contest Themes

First Prize Winners' Poems

Honorable Mention Winners' Poems

Friends of the Silas Bronson Library Form

*Financial Support for the Poetry Contest and Award Ceremony has been provided by*

The Friends of the Silas Bronson Library



# Meet the Librarians

## **Mr. Clivel Charlton, Head of Children, Adult & Teen Services —**

Clivel Charlton has been the Head of Children and Teen Services at the Silas Bronson Library for approximately ten years. He is also the Interim Head of Adult Information Services. He is responsible for the day-to-day operations of staff, programs and activities in the Adult, Teen and Children's Divisions. He is also responsible for the creation of programs and is the liaison in community partnerships. Clivel has twenty-plus years of library experience amid working for the New York Public Library and Silas Bronson Library. He has been a Librarian Trainee, Young Adult Senior Librarian, Librarian III (Assistant Branch Librarian) and currently Librarian IV (Division Head).

He truly believes that children can achieve more than they think. A champion of children's literacy, he enjoys introducing the very young to books through stories and rhymes. An advocate for early literacy, he believes his job is to inspire young people to be the best they can be, and to learn as much as possible. He says the library holds a plethora of ideas within its walls and can spark the flame for a reader to become a game changer. He believes that each one should teach one and that if we help another along the way, it will make life a little easier for all of us.

**Miss Juleigh Paradise, Children's Librarian —** Miss Juleigh has been a children's librarian for twenty-one years! Her mother instilled in her family a love of reading by taking the time to read to them every night at bedtime. A lover of the arts, she loves dancing, walking, and of course, reading. Her other hobbies are collecting owls, lighthouses and ladybugs.

**Ms. Anne Zadora, Children & YA Librarian —** Youth Services' newest librarian, and facilitator of the poetry contest, Ms. Anne is inquisitive and interested in everything under the sun. A lifelong reader, she loves finding new authors in almost every genre. Outside of the library life, Ms. Anne is an avid reader, mom, animal lover and a collector of literature inspired art prints.



## **JUDGES**

### **Anne Fenn**

Anne Fenn graduated from Northern Vermont University in Lyndonville, Vermont with a Bachelor of Science degree in English. Her graduate work was at both Central Connecticut State University and The University of Connecticut with a concentration on literature and the short story. She is a retired teacher with thirty years of experience teaching British and American literature and drama director at The Master's School in West Simsbury. Since retiring she has been enjoying reading, writing poetry and performing with the Greenwoods Consort, an a cappella Renaissance singing group.

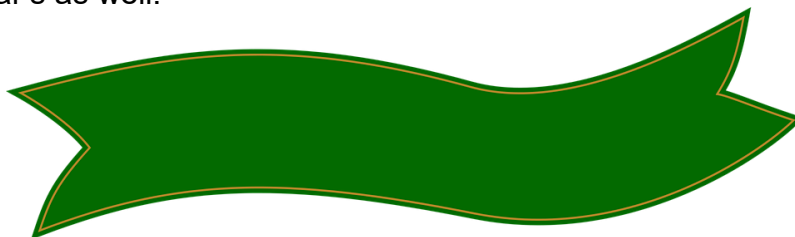
Married for the last fifty-four years to her husband, a former public school teacher, writer and bassoonist, she has two grown sons and six grand children.

### **Jim Geary**

Jim Geary is a lifelong resident of Waterbury Connecticut. He attended St. Mary Grammar School, Sacred Heart High School and has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Post University. Jim is a member of a very large Irish family who settled in Waterbury generations ago. Jim started his career path working for North American Bank that had its main office on Grand Street in Waterbury. After finishing college Jim taught 6th grade at St Mary Grammar School. Several years ago his career path changed and he now works for the City of Waterbury Bureau of Recreation. Jim lives in Bunker Hill with his other half.

### **Dr. Angela Holmes, Ed.D**

Angela Holmes is a lifelong resident of Waterbury, she is an educator, mother of two beautiful daughters, and parent advocate in the Brass City. Along with her daughter, Dr. Holmes is the co-founder of the nonprofit, Works of Faith, Inc. that operated in Waterbury Opportunities Industrialization Center (WOIC) on 7-79 Bishop Street in Waterbury, Connecticut. Works of Faith Inc. is a community-based non-profit focused on educating our youth, strengthening families and individuals, empowering parents in leadership and outreach to people in need. She is a returning judge this year, and is honored to be part of this year's as well.



# **From the Librarian's Desk**

## **Anne Zadora**

The poetry contest continues to be my favorite event hosted here at the Silas Bronson Library. It is a joy , and an honor to continue the tradition of organizing and facilitating the poetry contest. For forty-six years Waterbury-area students have been piquing our adult curiosity, lifting our spirits and offering up sometimes unexpected truths. This year is no different, and I hope you all enjoy reading through this booklet as much as I did while putting this together.

I have the distinct pleasure of being the contest facilitator, but the truth is, without the support of the Silas Bronson Library staff, The Friends of the Silas Bronson Library, our judges, Waterbury-area parents, teachers and students, there would be no contest. The poems in this book are among the most humorous, and thought-provoking poems that I have had come across this librarian's desk on their way to judges' hands.

Please join me in celebrating the creative minds of our Greater Waterbury-Area youths and congratulating each of them on a job well done.

Ms. Anne



SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

**46TH ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST**

**Themes by Grade**

Kindergarten—Third Grade

- 1) Animals
- 2) My Favorite Thing
- 3) Haiku

Grades Four—Six

- 1) Spooky, Scary Things
- 2) Make a Haiku
- 3) What's your Ideal World?

Grades 7 & 8

- 1) Make a Haiku
- 2) Social Media—Hero or Zero?
- 3) What Empowers you to be Fierce?



SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

**45TH ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST**

**FIRST PRIZE WINNERS**

**Grade**

<b>K</b>	<b>Scarlett Marzella</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Sebastian O. Rodriguez</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Margarita Madore</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Hailey Caceres</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Kivanc Ozen</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Fiona Riley</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Molly Crossley</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Arianna Mennillo</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Emma Moozar</b>

**\*All poems appear as they were received\***

Cats

Cats eat food

Cats are in a good mood

And if you don't play with them

They will fall asleep

Scarlett Marzella

Kindergarten

## *Happy Tail*

*I have a dog  
His name is Cail.  
When he sees me,  
He moves his tail*

*I bring him for a walk  
In the park  
He sees his friends  
And started to bark.*

*My dog was happy,  
Moving his tail.  
When I saw them  
All together,  
They all have a happy tail.*

*Sebastian O. Rodriguez*

*Grade 1*

# Spooky

Spooky is my cat,  
He is white and black.  
He was very scared at 12 weeks old,  
So, he ran and hid.  
But, sooner or later Spooky got bold.  
He came out of hiding,  
And started running and climbing.  
His favorite place to sleep is under my bed,  
In his brown fluffy cat bed.  
He loves to give big hugs,  
And he is a great cuddle bug.  
Now, he is such a sweet big boy,  
That, loves to play with his toys.  
Spooky gets so spooked out,  
And that's without a doubt.

Margarita Madore

Grade 2

## *Important rules*

*Here are some rules for you and me*

*See how important they can be*

*Always be honest, be kind and fair*

*Always be good and willing to share*

*These are rules we should all know we follow these rules  
wherever we go!*

*Hailey Caceres*

*Grade 3*

## *The Bat*

*The mammal flies in the dark*

*The bat is quite a fright*

*It usually hangs out in the night*

*It sleeps upside down*

*On its face is a frown*

*In grammar a bat is a noun*

*When you go out for trick or treat*

*You see it on the street*

*If you get scared, retreat*

*The bat has a small nose*

*Under the moonlight it glows*

*It flies away when the wind blows*

*Kivanc Ozen*

*Grade 4*

## *Wonderful Things*

*In my ideal world, there are  
Jungle girls, with pretty curls.  
There are kitty-cats with  
Funny hats, and there are  
Sparkly dresses with gems and ruffely hems.  
And also beaches with big blue waves, and  
chocolate caves. And kind people who like to  
wave. I will be there to, with you!*

*Fiona Riley,  
Grade 5*

There's no going back to the life before,  
Wait and see what your future has in store,  
No one can claim that they know,  
Because deep down, they don't.

You feel like life is a thing to rush,  
But think on all the things that make it so lush,  
You were made for a reason you know,  
So take pride in your life, never let go

Years seem to pass by faster than ever,  
But remember what changed your life for the better,  
Maybe big, maybe small,  
None of that matters at all.

Bad things happen to all,  
But let them roll off you like a little ball,  
People may tell you about their day,  
But let them in so they won't be afraid.

Molly Crossley  
Grade 6



## *Girls*

*I really love to be fierce but everyone thinks we can be pierced  
But their hurtful words are just overpowering us girls  
They don't understand how they demand  
us to be perfect and all that does, is defect  
Our fierceness and we are not that fearless  
But what empowers me to be fierce is when I can go to school  
And have people cheering me on  
but all the girls want ot live once upon a time  
But no one thinks that we are prime  
So all the girls need to listen up because we are tough and we  
are fierce.*

*Arianna Mennillo*

*Grade 7*

## Starving

“Download social media. It will be fun!” they said.

Now I’m crying as I scroll through comments in my bed.

The comments sometimes read—“You are so cute. A queen on her throne!”

Little do they know, I starved myself to the bone.

Posting and posting, checking what people say,

One hurtful comment can ruin a person’s day.

As I scroll through my friends’ posts, I see they’re all together.

Wow they look so good, they’re all like Heathers.

But why was I not invited? Aren’t I their friend?

Sometimes friendships must come to an end,

Thoughts flood my mind: Am I not good enough? Am I too fat?

No, no, it must not be that.

I start to overthink and get kind of anxious,

Nothing else can fill my mind, not even blankness.

I look at myself in the mirror, wondering why.

Why do I look like this?

Why do I want to die?

I wish I looked like them.

Skinny, pretty and bright like a gem.

I start slowly obsessing over little things,

My hair, my weight the food I bring.

I take a step on the scale and see the numbers,

Now I won’t go to bed or get any slumber.

Download social media, but see where it got me,

Alone sickly and afraid of she.

Emma Moozar

Grade 8

SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

**46TH ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

**Grade**

- K    Maxwell Morrison**
- 1    Akeem Clarke, Jr.**
- 2    Joshua Smith**
- 3    Victoria Footman**
- 4    Kai Sevilla**
- 5    Michael Hartnett**
- 6    Marc Matias**
- 7    Josephine Andonellis**
- 8    Robin McIntosh**

**\*All poems appear as they were received\***

*Batman*

*Batman saves Robin*

*He fights the bad guys*

*He saves Bruce Wayne*

*Superheroes save the world*

*Maxwell Morrison*

*Kindergarten*

## *Fun*

*The game was fun.*

*We play in the sun*

*I am good at playing tag,  
so that why I brag.*

*I am not ready to go.  
he ask to play soccer I said no.*

*I have to go home.  
I will call you on a phone.*

*Akeem Clarke, Jr.*

*Grade 1*

*Quietly sleeping.  
Cuddling, petting softly.  
No barking good boy!*

*Joshua Smith  
Grade 2*

## *My Favorite Things*

*I like rain but it is too plain.*

*I like mars and stars but  
they are pretty far! I want  
to fly to the sky to see the  
moon with my own eyes.  
And look at butterflies.*

*Victoria Footman*

*Grade 3*

*Silky Dew*

*Blanketing the grass  
The soft dew in the morning  
It feels like woven silk.*

*Kai Sevilla*

*Grade 4*



*Springtime*

*Spring time full of cheer*

*Flowers blossom in the air*

*Beautiful sunset*

*Michael Hartnett*

*Grade 5*

## *My Ideal World*

*My ideal world  
With birds and trees  
Try to picture it  
Can't you see?  
It's not the best  
Some people disagree  
But to me i see  
My ideal world  
A perfect prodigy.*

*Marc Matias*

*Grade 6*

## The Fire Deep Within

The love that burns deep inside  
For the ones that you hold dear  
Keeps you going,  
On your hardest and darkest days  
As a fire deep within

Josephine Andonellis

*Grade 7*

## *Can I Be Pretty?*

*A girl one day sat on her bed,  
While silently judging herself in her head.*

*Using her thumbs to scroll away,  
From the media posts she sees everyday;*

*Germinating tears in her eyes,  
She contemplates her role in others lives;*

*Staring in the wide bathroom mirror,  
Her mind drowns with "Do I deserve dinner?";*

*With her puffy and swollen eyes,  
Her mom asks why she hears her silent cries*

*I wish I was a pretty girl,  
And maybe I could give this thing a whirl,*

*You may question, "What is this thing?",  
It shows what the real world happens to bring;*

*Social media can hurt you;  
But you the only one it can pursue.*

*Girls in those posts can be pretty,  
Don't let them tell you if you are pretty.*

*Robin McIntosh  
Grade 8*

# JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

The Friends contribute a variety of materials, equipment and services not financed in the annual city budget. They also provide support for Library programs and activities involving the community. New members are welcome to join the Friends of the Library and share their talents and experience for improved total library service. The Friends of the Library meet the second Tuesday of even numbered months at the Silas Bronson Library.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in volunteer work?      YES                      NO

### Membership fees

Individual	\$25
Senior/Student	\$15
Patron	\$50
Organization	\$50
Business/Corporate	\$100
Other Contribution	\$_____

VISIT [WWW.BRONSONLIBRARY.ORG/FRIENDS](http://WWW.BRONSONLIBRARY.ORG/FRIENDS) FOR MORE INFORMATION

## GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

**You can help the Library.** Gifts in any amount are always welcome. Memorial gifts for departed relatives or friends are a special way to honor their memory. A bequest in your will is also a very special way to remember the Library and the entire community. Donors' wishes for handling gifts and bequests are carefully followed. Gifts and bequests are tax deductible.



*Thank You For Your  
Participation in our  
46th Annual Poetry  
Contest!*

