

**RED WHEELBARROW POETRY PRIZE
WINNERS & FINALISTS, 2026**

Poetry Center San José
Rob Pesich, Board President
1650 Senter Road
San José, CA
95112-2599
www.pcsj.org



Red Wheelbarrow Magazine
Ken Weisner, Editor
English Department
De Anza College
Cupertino, CA 95104
weisnerken@fhda.edu

Poetry Center San José and *Red Wheelbarrow Magazine* are pleased to announce the winners of the tenth annual *Red Wheelbarrow Poetry Prize*.
The poet Lee Herrick was this year's final judge.

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2026 Winners

Judith H. Montgomery, Oregon City, OR, "At the Gaza City Library"
Jon Naskrent, St. Louis, MO, "Leaving St. Louis"
David Eileen, Troutville, VA, "(When Asked How I Stay) Hopeful in the
Transexual Body"

These poets will receive awards of \$1,000, \$500, and \$250 respectively, and Gary Young of Greenhouse Review Press (Bonny Doon, CA) will produce an original broadside of Judith H. Montgomery's winning poem, "At the Gaza City Library"

2026 Finalists

C. M. Berger, Pittsburgh, PA, "Berry Picker Addresses Apprentice from Deathbed"
Shelly Cato, Jasper AL, "At Lux Nail Bar"
Richard Haney-Jardine, Houston, TX, "before the fold"
Anna Leonard, Richmond, VA, "Family Portrait, Post-Shift"
Ginny Rider Power, San Francisco, CA, "Seizure Stories"

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The tenth annual *Red Wheelbarrow Prize* received 1,800 poem submissions from over 600 writers. The prize is open for submissions through spring and summer months (Submittable.com), deadline July 31st. *Red Wheelbarrow* magazine publishes prizewinning and finalist poems in its annual national edition. The 2026 *Red Wheelbarrow* launch and prize celebration will take place on the evening of Monday, March 22nd, 2027 in Zoom and in person, details TBA.



(poetry center san josé)

SEMIFINALISTS, 2026 *Red Wheelbarrow* Poetry Prize

C. M. Berger, Pittsburgh, PA, "Berry Picker Addresses Apprentice from Deathbed"
Shelly Cato, Jasper AL, "At Lux Nail Bar"
Glen Delpit, Fresno, CA, "i see my ancestors"
David Eileen, Troutville, VA, "(When Asked How I Stay) Hopeful in the Transsexual Body"
David Eileen, Troutville, VA, "When My Sister Asks if I Really Don't Remember How to Make Dad's Creamed Peas"
Andrew Fague, Santa Cruz, CA, "Free Water"
Andrew Fague, Santa Cruz, CA, "Molt"
Rebecca Faulkner, Brooklyn, NY, "The Owl House"
Charles Grosel, Scottsdale, AZ, "Litany"
Christine Hamm, Parlin, NJ, "On the Ferry"
K. Hari, Queens, NY, "Immigrant's Guide"
Shellie Harwood, Bristol, CT, "Mirage"
Gary Lark, Grants Pass, OR, "Sweet Lizzy's Birthday"
Evalyn Lee, Noank, CT, "Stagger to a Stop My Peopled Heart"
Richard Haney-Jardine, Houston, TX, "before the fold"
Anna Leonard, Richmond, VA, "Maternity"
Anna Leonard, Richmond, VA, "Family Portrait, Post-Shift"
James Lilliefors, Naples, FL, "Lookback Time"
Judith H. Montgomery, Oregon City, OR, "At the Gaza City Library"
Jon Naskrent, St. Louis, MO, "Leaving St. Louis"
Jennifer Pons, West Linn, OR, "Made of Our Nakedness"
Adam Porkolab, Pécs, Hungary, "Soul-Wardrobe"
Adam Porkolab, Pécs, Hungary, "A Flower for the Sun"
Ginny Rider Power, San Francisco, CA, "Seizure Stories"
Erin Redfern, Fircrest, WA, "Blue Paper Cape"
Erin Redfern, Fircrest, WA, "Fourteen-line poem with a missing line"
Kelly Rowe, Flagstaff, AZ, "Unbeliever's Prayer No. 435"
Jeffrey Sams, Baltimore, MD, "Between the Stars"
Jeffrey Sams, Baltimore, MD, "Half Divorced in the Middle of Winter"
Eliana Rose Swerdlow, New Haven, CT, "Split Fig"
Wally Swist, South Hadley, MA, "Cabbage Whites"



WINNER BIOGRAPHIES

1st Prize, "At the Gaza City Library"

Judith H. Montgomery's poems appear in the *Gyroscope*, *Poet Lore*, *South Florida Poetry Journal*, and elsewhere. Her chapbook *Passion* received the Oregon Book Award for Poetry. Her second full-length collection, *Litany for Wound and Bloom*, a finalist for the Marsh Hawk Prize, appeared in 2018. Her prize-winning narrative medicine chapbook, *Mercy*, appeared from Wolf Ridge Press in 2019. Her most recent chapbook, *The Ferry Keeper*, on caring for her parents in their last years, appeared in 2024 as the winner of the Grayson Books Chapbook Competition.

2nd Prize, "Leaving St. Louis"

Jon Naskrent is a poet from Western Illinois. His work was longlisted for the 2024 National Poetry Competition by the Poetry Society of the United Kingdom. He currently lives in St. Louis, Missouri, where he works as a technical editor.

3rd Prize, ""(When Asked How I Stay) Hopeful in the Transsexual Body""

David Eileen is a lesbian poet writing letters in the mountains of Virginia. You can sign up for David's e-pistles at www.david-eileen.com, which also links their work published in *The Atlantic*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, & more. They would love to talk to you!

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Judge **Lee Herrick** is the California Poet Laureate, now in his second term. He is the author of four books of poems: *In Praise of Late Wonder: New and Selected Poems* (Gunpowder Press, September 2024); *Scar and Flower*, finalist for the 2020 Northern California Book Award; *Gardening Secrets of the Dead*; and *This Many Miles from Desire*. He is co-editor of *The World I Leave You: Asian American Poets on Faith and Spirit* (Orison Books 2020) and *Afterlives: An AGNI Portfolio of Asian Adoptee Diaspora Writing*. Herrick was born in Daejeon, Korea and adopted as an infant. He lives with his family in Fresno, California and served as Fresno Poet Laureate from 2015-2017. He teaches at Fresno City College. He is the 10th California Poet Laureate, and the first Asian American to serve in the role.