

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL
ukiaHaiku Festival



WINNING ENTRIES

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2009

*Published by the
Ukiah Poet Laureate Committee
Ukiah, California*

Children, K–3 Grade, All Topics

FIRST PLACE

*small, black pollywogs
swimming around in water
waiting for their legs*

*James Branson
Ukiah, CA*

SECOND PLACE

*move to my new house
small house high open windows
big garage spiders*

*Christian Avalos
Ukiah, CA*

THIRD PLACE

*mexico fishing
no money for fishing pole
throw stick string hook catch*

*Jesus Cervantes
Ukiah, CA*

HONORABLE MENTION

*horses galloping
ant colony right by them
palaminos, paints*

*Ericka Boesal
Calpella, CA*

HONORABLE MENTION

*cars splashing puddles
rain drops falling on my tongue
flowers are blooming*

*Melissa Lopez
Ukiah, CA*

HONORABLE MENTION

*quail and her babies
found some delicious berries
then dad comes along*

*Nicolette Hudson
Mendocino, CA*

Children, 4–6 Grade, All Topics

FIRST PLACE

*nibbling
in the night
silence*

*Delaney Kindopp
Ukiah, CA*

SECOND PLACE

*boards flying everywhere
helmets and knee pad clanking
police come and yell*

*Sean Symonds
Mendocino, CA*

THIRD PLACE

*a teacher talking
while a child falls asleep
everyone's content*

*Eliza Green
Mendocino, CA*

HONORABLE MENTION

*I like rough football
I like football in the rain
so much mud in face*

*Elias Cole
Mendocino, CA*

HONORABLE MENTION

*orange tail disappears into a tall pine tree
cat walks away
disappointed*

*Shayla Hloucha
Ukiah, CA*

HONORABLE MENTION

*frosting in the bowl
I take a very small taste
oops it's all gone*

*Marguerite O'Brien
Willits, CA*

Youth, 7–9 Grade, All Topics

FIRST PLACE

*A hot windy day
three hair ties on the gearshift
hair flies in the wind*

*Drew Gravier
Ukiah, CA*

SECOND PLACE

*big fish tailwalking
the boat rocking back and forth
reel that sucker in*

*Michael Ricklets
Leggett, CA*

THIRD PLACE

*my cheek full of seeds
it is my turn I go up
the smell of fresh dirt*

*Raquel Contreras
Calpella, CA*

HONORABLE MENTION

*chains shake in my hands
I lift my feet high to fly
soaring through the air*

*Jasmine Chang
Ukiah, CA*

HONORABLE MENTION

*they fall to their death
each leaf with every color
match my kimono*

*Catrina Sun-Tan
San Francisco, CA*

HONORABLE MENTION

*cool needles strike my face
wet dust scent floods my nostrils
rain sounds everywhere*

*Jerry Lin
Talmage, CA*

HONORABLE MENTION

*driving in my car
suddenly a smile breaks loose
the wind in my face*

*Carsen Fernandez
Ukiah, CA*

Youth, 10–12 Grade, All Topics

FIRST PLACE

*oak branch in winter
silhouette against a moon
silent cicada*

*Sara Lytle
Ukiah, CA*

SECOND PLACE

*beats on earthly drum
dripple, dropple, pattering
ripples of music*

*Lexie Jenné
Ukiah, CA*

THIRD PLACE

*music numbs my thoughts
clock ticking, beating at my eardrums
lullaby*

*Bo Yan J. Moran
San Francisco, CA*

HONORABLE MENTION

*there is a big fire
we cannot find any water
we leave it to burn*

*Phil Saye
Redwood Valley, CA*

HONORABLE MENTION

*cold, white, frosted lawn
sunlight slowly creeps across
transformed to wet grass*

*Chris Yiu
Talmage, CA*

Children, K–6 Grade, About Ukiah

FIRST PLACE

*Mendocino Drive
a skateboard sticker
on a no-skateboarding sign*

*Atreus Canaris
Cloverdale, CA*

SECOND PLACE

*Low Gap Park hikers
painted lady butterflies
both like the roses*

*Luis Sanchez
Ukiah, CA*

THIRD PLACE

*I come from China
to a new home Ukiah
new school and new air*

*Zixin Chen
Talmage, CA*

HONORABLE MENTION

*hiking at Low Gap
blue-eyed dicks peeking through grass
trees with moss and birds*

*Graciela Manzo
Ukiah, CA*

HONORABLE MENTION

*pears bumpy and round
hanging from long, brown branches
waiting to be eaten*

*Anthony Sanchez
Ukiah, CA*

HONORABLE MENTION

*skipping down the street
hot sun blazing down on me
my bare feet scalding*

*Kiera Poehlmann
Mendocino, CA*

Youth, 7–12 Grade, About Ukiah

FIRST PLACE

*bright midnight starlight,
cold metal swing squeaks loud,
what a Friday night*

*Sonja Grivette
Redwood Valley, CA*

SECOND PLACE

*a town is a town
a city is a city
Ukiah is home*

*Drew Gravier
Ukiah, CA*

THIRD PLACE

*don't want rural poverty
you girl you knife you hatchback
you missed Ukiah*

*Hana Sustkova
Upice, Czech Republic*

HONORABLE MENTION

*grapevines and pear trees
sun or rain against my face
Oh I love this town*

*Courtney McDermott
Ukiah, CA*

HONORABLE MENTION

*grapes fresh from the vine
plump, juicy, no pesticides
soon to be our wine*

*Kayla Holland
Redwood Valley, CA*

HONORABLE MENTION

*children riding bikes
the ice cream truck is coming
sweet Ukiah days*

*Ashley Martin
Ukiah, CA*

Adult, About Ukiah

FIRST PLACE

*Ukiah High School
plum blossoms and first kisses
windowless classroom*

*Rose Easterbrook
Philo, CA*

SECOND PLACE

*after the street fair
only a wisp of strawdust
where the scarecrow stood*

*John Frary
Ukiah, CA*

THIRD PLACE

*old boat sits in mud
rusting on dry cracked lake bed
no fishing today*

*Dot Brovarney
Ukiah, CA*

HONORABLE MENTION

*autumn dawn thunders
empty gondolas echo
pickers' cars roll in*

*Cathy Monroe
Redwood Valley, CA*

HONORABLE MENTION

*thick knuckled grandpa
folds a fresh pepperwood leaf
plays a lively tune*

*Manya Wik
Potter Valley, CA*

HONORABLE MENTION

*in my kitchen
counting pears—
fruit fly*

*Robin Beshers
Sebastopol, CA*

JUDGES SPECIAL AWARD

*I am
in the center
of uk and ah*

*Yoli Rose
Ukiah, CA*

Adult, All Topics

FIRST PLACE

*a white pigeon
drops a feather in the yard
first winter snow*

*Janak Sapkota
Kathmandu, Nepal*

SECOND PLACE

*looking for mushrooms
the mist that was on the hills
is suddenly gone*

*Roy Helton
Laytonville, CA*

THIRD PLACE

*Heroes' Cemetery—
a bunch of forget-me-nots
just at the gateway*

*Vasile Moldovan
Bucharest, Romania*

HONORABLE MENTION

*Indonesian isle
fish nets tangled in tall trees
tsunami debris*

*S.E. Buffington
New Hartford, NY*

HONORABLE MENTION

*snowed-in cellar hole
the apple tree's gnarled branches
fuzzy with lichen*

*Catherine Lee
Eastport, ME*

HONORABLE MENTION

*a train window view
of distant barns faded brown—
thresholds not crossed*

*Sherry Weaver Smith
San Ramon, CA*

Adult, Contemporary

FIRST PLACE

*rusty plow
behind the old barn
a harvest moon*

Patricia Daharsh

Pinellas Park, FL

SECOND PLACE

*memorial service...
a moth beating its wings
on the window*

Bill Pauly

Dubuque, IA

THIRD PLACE

*blue leaves
a bare tree shadows
a graffiti wall*

Sherry Weaver Smith

San Ramon, CA

HONORABLE MENTION

*cattle graze
the greening coastal hills
winter solstice*

*James Chessing
San Ramon, California*

HONORABLE MENTION

*two bicycles
“Daddy, can we stop
and pick a flower?”*

*Ellen Lawrence Skagerberg
Santa Rosa, CA*

HONORABLE MENTION

*Over here! Over here!
jəʀə ɹɪvə
Otter among canoes*

*Sheila K. Barksdale
Gainesville, FL*

Judges & Ukiah Poet Laureate Committee

*early spring
warm days, cool nights—
miner's lettuce by the propane tank*

*Dan Barth
Talmage, CA*

*a grave
under thick winter fog—
red flowers*

*Armand Brint
Ukiah, CA*

*when the poppies close,
I blanket the old horses
waiting for spring rain*

*Donna Kerr
Willits, CA*

*wildfires—
the scent of winter
in July*

*Kate Marianchild
Ukiah, CA*

*a cow's path—
blue sky in a hundred
little puddles*

*Michael Reidell
Willits, CA*

*sand giggles
the pattern of waves
left by ebb tide*

*Jane Reichhold
Gualala, CA*

*the slow whooshhhhhh
as sprinklers sprout in my garden
again, the sideways rain!*

*David Smith
Ukiah, CA*

*mongoose roves the shoreline
beachcombers find a discarded dress
at the water's edge*

*Theresa Whitehill
Ukiah, CA*

*sunrise—
suddenly a world
of shadows*

*Kayla Wildman
Potter Valley, CA*

The Ukiah Poet Laureate Committee wishes to acknowledge the response of this year's authors—1,581 entries from fourteen states, ten countries, and spanning four continents!

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