

# Bay Leaves

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Prize-Winning Poems  
Sponsored by

The Poetry Council of North Carolina  
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Chapel Hill, NC

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The Poetry Council, founded in 1949, promotes annual contests and secures notable writers and teachers as judges. Until 1997, meetings of the Council were held in Asheville. In that year, the Council established an official relationship with Catawba College in Salisbury as a permanent repository for PCNC materials and as a regular meeting place each fall to celebrate Poetry Day, which is sponsored by the Council. The Council does not have a general membership.

## DEDICATION

# J



Janice Sullivan

**Janice L. Sullivan** is the immediate past president of the Poetry Council of North Carolina, and is serving as manager of the Ellen Johnston-Hale category for 2007. She has also served on the North Carolina Poetry Society Board as First Vice-president, and is the current president of the Writer's Group of the Triad in Greensboro. Her poems have been published in several literary magazines and anthologies: *Bay Leaves, NC Poetry Society Award Winning Poems, International Icarus, Flying Machines, Pembroke Magazine, A Turn in Time Anthology*, and *Kakalak 2007*. One of her poems will appear this fall in an Old Mountain Press anthology.

Nancy Adams—who has been the Council's Contest Coordinator, and who is the current category manager for the Oscar Arnold Book Award—provides the following account of her experiences working with Janice, as quoted below.

"I worked closely with Janice Sullivan for three years, 2003-2005, while she was President of the Poetry Council of North Carolina, and I was Contest Coordinator. We e-mailed an average of once daily and, oftentimes, several times a day, as late as midnight or 1 a.m., as we worked together on everything from mundane housekeeping duties, to broadening the reach of the Poetry Council, to choosing new Council members. When making major decisions, Janice always sought the advice and wisdom of those involved and seasoned Council members.

Janice was very busy, and she traveled extensively, but she always made sure that the Poetry Council's needs were met. For example, she would e-mail from Mexico or the North Carolina coast when necessary. She worked tirelessly on her own poetry, and promoting poetry in North Carolina.

My relationship with Janice grew from co-worker to friend very quickly. I respected Janice's hard work, devotion to poetry, and warm manner. As we spent time working together on the Council, we shared our love of poetry and our lives. We discussed taking care of elderly mothers, balancing work and family, and seeing our children grow into responsible adults.

Janice and I still work together as category managers for the Poetry Council, although we live over an hour apart. Just recently, she e-mailed, and we planned to meet for lunch soon. I'm sure we'll share stories about our two loves: poetry and family."

To our friend and colleague, we joyfully dedicate the 2007 edition of *Bay Leaves*.

Nancy Adams

On behalf of the Board of Directors

&

President, W. Edgar Cockrell III

September 22, 2007

## JUDGES

*Oscar Arnold Young Contest for Book:* **Stephen Gardner**



studied at USC Columbia with George Garrett and at Oklahoma State University with Gordon Weaver. A former Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, he has been a member of the USC Aiken faculty since 1972, teaching poetry and creative writing. His poems, stories, essays, and scholarship have appeared widely in such publications as *Southern Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Connecticut Review*, *New Orleans Review*, *Kansas Quarterly*, *California Quarterly*, and *Texas Review*. His first poetry collection, *This Book Belongs to Eva* (Palanquin Press), was published in 1996. He is the former editor and publisher of The Devil's Millhopper Press and a past President of the Board of Governors of the South Carolina Academy of Authors. He and his old dog live in Aiken, SC.

*Charles Shull Contest for Traditional Poetry:* **Kim Bridgford**



she is a professor of English and editor of *Dogwood* and *Mezzo Cammin*. Her third book of poetry, *In the Extreme: Sonnets About World Records*, winner of the Donald Justice Poetry Award, is forthcoming from the West Chester University Poetry Center in 2007.

*James Larkin Pearson Contest for Free Verse:* **James Applegate**



was born in Stantonsburg, a small farming town in eastern North Carolina. He has written about and taught within his home state for most of his life. While teaching at Duke University since 1972, he has gained an audience among both academics and his own hometown. He recently published *Selected Poems* as his first anthology. His other works include: *War Summer* (1972), *Statues of the Grass* (1975), *Following Gravity* (1980), *Foreseeing the Journey* (1983), *Seas and Island Journeys: Landscape and Consciousness from Wordsworth to Roethke* (1985), *Ode to the Chinaberry Tree and Other Poems* (1986), *River Writing: An Eno Journal* (1988), *Lessons in Soaring* (1989), and *A History of the River: Poems* (1993).

Judges continued

*Ellen Johnston-Hale Contest for Light Verse:* **Gil Allen** is a professor of English at Furman University and also the co-founder and co-editor of Ninety-Six Press. His collections of poems are *In Everything*, *Second Chances*, *Commandments at Eleven*, and *Driving to Distraction*. He was the 2002-03 recipient of the SCAC Literary Arts Fellowship and co-editor *A Millennial Sampler of South Carolina Poetry* in 2005.



*Gladys Owings Hughes Heritage Contest for Free Verse:* **Michelle Desbarats Fels** was born in Winnipeg, attended the Writing Studio (1997, Rachel Wyatt and Don McKay) and was a finalist in the CBC/Saturday Night National Poetry Contest (1996-1997). In 1998, she received an Ontario Arts Council-Works in Progress grant. Her first book is titled *Last Child to Come Inside* (Carleton University Press 1998). She now lives in Ottawa.



*Charlotte Young Contest for Elementary and Middle School Students:* **Ray McManus** received his MFA in poetry from the University of South Carolina in May 2000, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Composition and Rhetoric at the University of South Carolina. Ray has coordinated and read in over 30 poetry readings in the last three years. His poetry has appeared in *Nimrod*, *Crazyhorse*, *Oakland Review*, *Natural Bridge*, *Cold Mountain Review*, and other journals throughout the United States and Canada. His first poetry manuscript, *Driving through the country before you are born* is currently under review at several major presses. Ray is the winner of the Academy of American Poets award at USC (1997), as well as the winner of the James Dickey award in poetry (2000). In 2002, Ray won the Academy of South Carolina Author's fellowship for his poetry. He actively teaches creative writing, and advanced composition at the University of South Carolina. Ray is Writer in Residence for the Palmetto Center for the Arts at



Judges continued

Richland Northeast High School, and the Creative Writing Director for the Tri District Summer Arts Consortium.

*Sam Ragan Carolina Connection Contest for High School and College Students:* **Thomas Sayers Ellis** was born and raised in Washington, D.C., where he attended Paul Laurence Dunbar High School. He co-founded The Dark



Room Collective in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1988 and earned a M.F.A. from Brown University in 1995. His work has appeared in many journals and anthologies and he has received fellowships and grants from The Fine Arts Work Center, the Ohio Arts Council, Yaddo and The MacDowell Colony. Mr. Ellis is a contributing editor to *Callaloo* and a consulting editor to *A Public Space*. In 2005 he was awarded a Mrs. Gilea Whiting Writers' Award. His first, full collection, *The Maverick Room*, was published by Graywolf Press in 2005. He is also the author of *The Good Junk* (Take Three #1, Graywolf 1996); a chapbook, *The Genuine Negro Hero* (Kent State University Press, 2001), and the chaplet, *Song On* (WinteRed Press 2005). An Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Sarah Lawrence College and a faculty member of The Lesley University low-residency M.F.A program (Cambridge, Massachusetts), his *Quotes Community: Notes for Black Poets* is also forthcoming from the University of Michigan Press, Poets on Poetry Series.

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OSCAR ARNOLD YOUNG

*First Place*

from *Chains & Mirrors*

(Harperprints, Henderson, NC, 2006)

**Black Moon**

I watch him drag the boat across  
the scree, over the dry doggerel  
of mackerel scales and filament

of a season ended, to the water.  
The sand flays the last flakes  
of paint from the boat's hull,

splash and crack at the confluence  
of stone and water, and he is out  
beyond the waves, where fishbones

glint like small suns in a black mirror,  
and the splay of the Pelican's wing  
stitches the sea to the sky. Brine-

bleached hands haul the sodden creel  
above the gunwales, and there again  
is the gaping child-shaped hole,

sawn by the snapping-turtle's teeth,  
ragged-cut and impossible to mend.  
Did I say that the turtle is guided

by ambient moonlight? So, the wolf  
howls. The waves gnaw at the shore.  
Bones and light are mixed with water.

**The Long, Slow Drop**

A wedge of salted cantaloupe  
sinking in blue agave.



*Chains &  
Mirrors* by  
Alex Grant

OSCAR ARNOLD YOUNG

*First Place*

A bruised peach  
in a white porcelain bowl.

The heart's iambic thud,  
like steps on maple floors.

Four strands of hair  
in a lover's mouth.

A zinc nail sunk in bitumen.

A black-haired boy  
seen in a rear-view mirror.

A plum tomato skewered  
on a bamboo stave.

A Chinese flag buckled  
in the monsoon's lull.

The White afternoon  
turning to November dark.

*Alex Grant*  
*Chapel Hill and Carrboro, NC*



Alex Grant

**Biographical Note**

Alex Grant's chapbook, *Chains & Mirrors*, won the 2006 Randall Jarrell Poetry Prize. His poems have appeared in *Arts & Letters*, *The Nation*, and *Poetry Southeast*, among many others. He was the 2006 winner of the *Kakalak Anthology of Carolina Poets* contest, and the 2004 winner of the Pavel Srut Poetry Fellowship in Prague. He has been a finalist, semi-finalist, or runner-up in many other poetry-related competitions, such as the *Nimrod's* Pablo Neruda Poetry Prize, and The *Arts & Letters* Poetry Prize. He is a native of Scotland now living in N.C.

OSCAR ARNOLD YOUNG

*Second Place*

from *What Flies Away*

(Main Street Rag Publishing Co., Charlotte, NC, 2006)

### **The Kingdom of Children**

I lead my mother to a seat in the gazebo  
where my friend's children, all dark curls, glossy skin,  
play with dusty plastic horses, once stowed  
in her basement. I stroke her arm, watch her lips  
relax as if the children are hers. Kneeling,  
they stare up at her, strips of light illuminate  
their faces. I wonder what they see—  
an old woman, skirt turned up at the waist,  
stain on her blouse from breakfast, hair matted  
from napping, logic lost along the way.  
She says, *giddyup*, taps her foot, claps  
her hands, whispers a soft little neigh.  
The children draw close to sit with her a while.  
Her nonsense makes them whinny, buck and smile.



*What Flies  
Away* by Ann  
Campanella

### **Snow**

It drifted down last night  
in thick clumps, reminding me  
of the many-sided paper flakes  
I used to cut with blunt scissors.

At home, my daughter pats  
my mother's knee. Knee-high  
to her wheelchair, she traces  
the silver spokes.

My mother's eyes are bright  
and lost in a face caressed  
by hair pressed in waves

OSCAR ARNOLD YOUNG

*Second Place*

of windswept snow.

This morning trees wear snow  
sweaters, leaves and bushes  
are scarved, acorns don  
tiny snow caps and bibs.

My daughter presses  
pudgy palms together.  
For a moment, my mother  
smiles and claps.

Outside, a breeze releases  
white dust from the fork  
of a branch. It shimmers  
like butterfly wings

and is gone.



*Ann Campanella*  
*Huntersville, NC*

Ann Campanella

**Biographical Note**

Ann Campanella is a former newspaper and magazine editor living on a small horse farm in Huntersville with her husband and daughter. She received the North Carolina Poetry Society Poet Laureate Award in 1999 and 2001 for her poems, “The Chase” and “How to Grieve.” Her collection, *What Flies Away*, was chosen for Main Street Rag’s Editor’s Select Poetry Series; and her poetry was also selected for the Blumenthal Readers & Writers Series by the North Carolina Writers’ Network. Campanella has a degree in English Literature from Davidson College in North Carolina.

OSCAR ARNOLD YOUNG

*Honorable Mention*

***Stepping on Cracks in the Sidewalk***

(Finishing Line Press, 2006)

**Linda Annas Ferguson**, Charleston, SC

Linda Annas Ferguson is the author of four collections of poetry, including her first full-length book, *Bird Missing from One Shoulder* (WordTech Editions). *Stepping on*



*Cracks in the Sidewalk* is her third chapbook. She was the 2005 Poetry Fellow for the South Carolina Arts Commission selected by David Trinidad, and served as the 2003-2004 Poet-in-Residence for the Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, S.C. She was the winner of the Palanquin Press Competition of the University of South Carolina, Aiken, for her chapbook, *It's Hard to Hate a Broken Thing*. Her second chap-

book, *Last Chance to Be Lost*, was the winner of the Kentucky Writers' Coalition Poetry Competition.

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***Keep and Give Away***

(University of South Carolina Press, 2006)

**Susan Meyers**, Summerville, SC



Susan Meyers is a North Carolina native and recent winner of the SC Poetry Book Prize and the 2007 SIBA Book Award for Poetry. Her chapbook *Lessons in Leaving* won the 1998 Persephone Press Book Award (later renamed the Mary Belle Campbell Book Publication

OSCAR ARNOLD YOUNG

*Honorable Mention*

Award). Other awards include *The South Carolina Review*'s inaugural poetry contest and *Yemassee*'s Potcataligo Poetry Contest. She holds an MFA degree in Creative Writing from Queens University of Charlotte. She is a past president of the North Carolina Poetry Society (1998-2000) and the current president of the Poetry Society of South Carolina.

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***Any Second Now***

(Main Street Rag Publishing Company, 2006)

**Mark Smith-Soto**, Greensboro, NC



Mark Smith-Soto is Professor of Romance Languages and Director of the Center for Creative Writing in the Arts at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where he edits *International Poetry Review*. His poetry has appeared in many prestigious literary journals, such as *The Sun*, *Nimrod*, *Quarterly West*, and *Kenyon Review*. In 2005 he was the

recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in creative writing. The University Press of Florida published his first full-length poetry collection, *Our Lives Are Rivers*, in 2003. *Any Second Now* appears in Main Street Rag's Editor's Select Poetry Series.