



MASTERS POETRY COMPETITION

Entry Deadline: September 13, 2015

Winners Announced September 21, 2015

The Masters Poetry Competition is held in memory of Joan Johnson-Blackwell, long-time Lewistown, Illinois resident and champion of the work of Edgar Lee Masters and his connection to Lewistown. Joan spent countless hours over many years educating local residents on the work of Masters by teaching it in the local schools, and organizing and promoting Edgar Lee Masters related public events, including, Masters home tours, poetry and creative writing contests.

THEME: All entries to the competition are expected to follow the thematic influence of Edgar Lee Masters's Spoon River Anthology. Poems should show some element of the landscapes and ways of life of Spoon River Valley region, especially the places and people of Fulton County, Illinois. Poems may be fiction or non-fiction.

AGE DIVISIONS & AWARDS: All entries will be judged on the basis of originality, imagery, insight, innovations, and technical precision. Proofread your final copy. Prizes will be awarded for entries by writers in each of three age divisions: **Youth** ages 18 and under; **Adults** ages 19-64; and **Seniors** ages 65+. A grand prize called "The Edgar Award" will also be granted by the judges for a poem from any age group which deserves superior recognition. Popular vote awards for each category will also be given. Entries will be posted as they are received on our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/100thanniversarymastersanthology. Popular votes are tallied by Facebook "Likes."

ENTRY FORMAT: A writer may submit up to three original poems (maximum 24 lines each) which should be placed on standard 8 1/2" x 11" sheet with one poem per page, one side. In addition to the poem, the following information (and NO other information) should be placed in the upper left hand corner of the page: 1.) the poet's initials; 2.) poet's age 3.) Poem's title. **Each poem entry must be accompanied by a completed entry form.** Additional copies of these rules may be obtained at mastersanthology.com or by sending a stamped, self-addressed, business size envelope to Masters Poetry Competition, Lewistown City Hall, Attn: Amanda Woodruff, 119 South Adams St., Lewistown, IL 61542.

ENTRY PROCEDURE: Online entries are preferred and may be made by going to mastersanthology.com, click on **Masters Poetry Competition** link and upload your poem (upload file extensions accepted - .doc, .docx, .rtf, .txt), fill out and submit the entry form. Repeat for each poem entry. Entries may also be mailed to **Masters Poetry Competition, Lewistown City Hall, Attn: Amanda Woodruff, 119 South Adams St., Lewistown, IL 61542. All contest entries must be received by Sunday, September 13, 2015.** Entries may also be hand delivered to the listed address. There are no entry fees to entry the competition. No purchase necessary. No financial obligation to enter or win the competition. All entries must be the original creation of the submitting author. All rights to the entries must be owned by the author and shall remain the property of the author. The entry must not infringe the copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity or other intellectual property rights of any person or entity. The author gives permission to the Fulton County Arts Council to publish and display the entry on the web and printed publications, accompanied by author credit. Poems containing vulgarity or offensive material will be disqualified, as determined by the Judges and/or Sponsor in their sole and absolute discretion. The sponsors reserve the right to disqualify any entry it deems inappropriate.

AWARDS CEREMONIES: will be at 4p.m. on September 26th at Oak Hill Cemetery in Lewistown. In case of rain or inclement weather ceremonies will be moved to the Lewistown and Fulton County Visitors Center at 222 S Main St. Each author attending will be given the opportunity to read 1,2, or 3 of his/her entries. Bring copies of poems to read at the ceremonies. Prizes will be awarded.

The Masters Poetry Competition is co-sponsored by Lewistown Chamber of Commerce and Fulton County Arts Council/Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. For questions or concerns contact Amanda Woodruff at (309)547-4301.



The Fulton County Arts Council is funded in part by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

MASTERS POETRY COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Entry Deadline - September 13, 2015

All mailed or hand delivered entries must include a completed copy of this form with each poem. This form may be photocopied for multiple submissions. The Masters Poetry Competition collects personal information for the purpose of notifying contest winners. All information submitted is kept in confidence and used solely for notification purposes and shall not be made public. The Masters Poetry Competition does not lease, sell, or share personal information collected.

NAME _____ INITIAL _____

AGE _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

If student, name of school _____

Title of poems entered: _____

I certify that the entry named above is my own work & not previously published. Further, I hereby authorize publication of these poems under my name if the contest organizers have any publishing opportunity.

SIGNED _____ DATE _____