

Press Release 07/20/09

The Ventura County Writers Club is proud to announce the winners of its 2009 Poetry Contest. The club received over 200 entries from local and international poets.

The first place poem in the adult category is *Renovation*, by Cathryn Andresen of Camarillo. The second place poem is *Featherbrains*, by Margaret Morris of Ventura. *We Go to a Fire*, by Michael Faran of Ventura, won third place. Doris Vernon, also from Camarillo, received Honorable Mention for her poem *I'm Packing the Days*.

In the Under 18 category, the first place winner for her poem *Being Me* is Westlake resident Elizabeth Riker. The second place award goes to Valerie Lopez of Oxnard for *The Silly Game*. *Ode to Orange*, by Patty Espinoza, also of Oxnard, won third place. Zoey Dew of Simi and Amy Lieber of Westlake are receiving Honorable Mentions for their poems *A Beautiful Day* and *Just Write*, respectively.

Here are the winning poems from the adult category.

Renovation
by
Cathryn Andresen

sometimes knowing why is
like driving to
Home Depot buying
a ladder and
paint drop cloths
and rollers masking tape
and sash brushes carting it
all the way
home and expecting
that to be enough

Featherbrains
by
Margaret Morris

The earth swelters,
ice shelves fall
and islands vanish.
Outside my door
a lone bird claims
a single branch,
and my heart rises to his song in joy
as though I didn't know
any more than he.

Winning Poems, Continued

We Go To a Fire

by

Michael Faran

it was only bill's liquor store,
his small business smearing the night with wind-blown whips
of blonde flame,
the smoke smelled of thunderbird

i light your cigarette with my
hands expertly cupped & we see
bill standing alone, his robe
dirty & old like himself;
two fireman work a heavy hose

we go home slightly drunk but
more tired,
you say that it would have been
nice to say something to bill &
maybe slip him a couple of bucks

we make love in the fidget of
fluttering blue lights
it's funny how disaster brings
out the best in people

I'm Packing the Days

by

Doris Vernon

I'm packing the days
In the suitcase of my life
Running out of room