

2013 Sidewalk Poetry Contest Winners:

It is not carelessness
 to leave a poem
 lying around

By Susan Downing

Hard candy of love –
what if I bite
down
a
little?

By Charles Matson Lume

If your dog married my dog
we would be related
and I would bring you meals
when you were ailing
and insist that you come out with me
to simply sniff the air.

By Susan Olsson

Dragonfly

You are soul-weigher, tiny
devil's horse, doctor
of snakes. You are strength
of late summer, double-barred
cross of courage and speed,
rendered flightless
with two pebbles
and a string
of child's hair.

By Paige Riehl

Haircut

Fool that I was with my scissors
I have nothing left to offer
The warm spring breeze

By Marcy Steinberg

2013 Sidewalk Poetry Contest Winners' Bios:

Susan Downing had being a Sidewalk Poetry winner on her bucket list. Writing has long been her hobby, from letters to the editor and doggerel poems for friends' birthdays, babies, and weddings to unfinished screenplays. She and her husband recently became empty nesters and are enjoying opportunities to travel.

Charles Matson Lume is a visual artist with an MFA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has received fellowships from the Bush and Jerome Foundations, and the Minnesota State Arts Board. Charles finds illumination in the poetry of Gustaf Sobin, William Bronk, and Charles Wright.

A transplant from New York, Susan Olsson has been a special education teacher for 25 years. She entered college with a "talented student admissions scholarship" for her poetry, then spent 37 years with writer's block. Literally and emotionally "stopped in her tracks" by sidewalk poetry, Susan decided to give it a go.

Paige Riehl's poetry has been featured in many publications, including *Meridian*, *South Dakota Review*, and *Nimrod*, and she won the 2012-13 Loft Mentor Series in Poetry. She loves her Victorian house in Saint Anthony Park, where she lives with her husband, son, and 21-year-old cat.

Marcy Steinberg's classmate at a school reunion once exclaimed, "You're the poet!" and recited *Haircut*, which she'd remembered for 34 years – since 4th grade. Marcy told this story to Saint Paul Poet Laureate Carol Connolly, who encouraged her to submit the poem to the Sidewalk Poetry contest. Marcy thanks that woman from elementary school for her precious gift, and she thanks Carol for her encouragement.

Honorable Mention Poems:

Alone

Standing.
Waiting.

So much depends upon
being
asked
to dance.

By Caroline Bassett

Dusk

Her 80th birthday – “Surprise!”
She smiles from the party photo, her last.
As a kid, rushing home after basketball,
barely beating curfew,
I’d nuzzle her.
I smell her now,
rosebud salve and a perfume I can’t recall,
but warm and home and Mom.

By D S Elliott

A Little Rock

A rock on the ground,
next to the rock a tree,
on the tree is a bird,
its feathers like the river,
in the river’s a fish,
scales that shine like the moon,
after the moon’s the sun,
the sun shines down on the ground,
and on the ground,
a little rock.

By Anna Musielewicz [youth submission]

Reflections

every day in the mirror i see
a girl who isn’t me

By Kaya Solheid [youth submission]

I am so confused
that last night I slept
on the other side of the bed
because I thought someone
had taken my place.

By Jennifer Pennington

The echo was in the stone
long before any voice
emerged, the instinct of departure
born long before
the body.

By Greg Watson

Honorable Mention Poets' Bios:

Caroline Bassett is an occasional poet and sometime tango dancer. She directs The Wisdom Institute and teaches at Capella and Walden Universities. A transplanted Easterner, she loves the nature and culture, winter and water, of the Twin Cities. She also loves and is loved by an irreverent insouciant.

Steve (D S) Elliott and his wife, an artist, and daughter, an amazing young poet, love living in Lowertown. His usual terrain is history and museums.

Anna Musielewicz is 13 years old. She wrote this poem when she was a 5th grade student at L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion School. Anna loves many kinds of art but her favorites are drawing and playing the piano.

Kaya Solheid is 8 years old and enjoys playing with Legos and her friend Lyra. She knows Japanese like her mom. Her favorite color is blue and she loves to read. Kaya attends Crossroads Elementary School, where she wrote her poem in the Spoken Word Poetry Club.

Jennifer Pennington works as a nonprofit consultant and sits on a number of boards including Art Shanty Projects, Sociologists of Minnesota, and Twin Cities Mobile Market. She is a cofounder of Blue Ox, an artist-designed mini golf course opening in Saint Paul's West 7th neighborhood.

Greg Watson's work has appeared in numerous literary journals and has been featured on Garrison Keillor's *Writer's Almanac*. His latest collection is, *What Music Remains*, published by Nodin Press.