



**Silas Bronson Library**

Something for Everyone

# 48th ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST



**May 18, 2023**

*Financial Support for the Poetry Contest and Award Ceremony has been provided in part by*

## The Friends of the Silas Bronson Library



*Special Guest Musicians at the Award Ceremony*



Music Director & Conductor: Maestro Leif Bjaland



Bravo Waterbury is a subsidiary of the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra

**SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY  
48TH ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST  
AWARDS CEREMONY  
MAY 18, 2023**

Library Director: Raechel Guest

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION**

Clivel Charlton, Division Head, Children & Youth Services

Anne Zadora, Poetry Contest Facilitator

Juleigh Paradise, Youth Librarian

Kyle Garcia, Youth Librarian

**JUDGES**

**Jim Geary**

A lifelong resident of Waterbury, Connecticut, Jim attended St. Mary Grammar School, Sacred Heart High School before attending Post University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts. Jim's varied career path began with North American Bank, whose main office was on Grand St. in Waterbury and continued with teaching. As a teacher, Jim taught sixth graders at St. Mary Grammar School. More recently, Jim works for the City of Waterbury Bureau of Recreation, and is an active member of the community, including being part of the Library Board of Agents.

**Audrey Harrell**

Miss Audrey Harrell, or Miss Audrey, is an active member of the Waterbury community. A self-described community organizer, she's part of many advisory boards, including the Library Board of Agents, Friends of the Library, committees, clubs and is an active member of her church. An advocate for libraries, museum programs, children and seniors, Miss Audrey spends a lot of her time championing those causes.



## From the Librarian's Desk

Anne Zadora

It has been my pleasure to organize and facilitate the forty-eighth poetry contest. Over the course of the contest, Waterbury's children have been sharing their humor, creativity and perspectives with the adults in their lives. This year's cohort of winners have done the same, and I am delighted to be able to share them in this poetry collection.

I have the distinct pleasure of being the contest facilitator; I could not run this program without the support of the following: Silas Bronson library staff, Waterbury Board of Education, teachers, school library media specialists, and parents. In especial, I want to extend a thank you to the principals and library media specialists who so often go the extra mile for their students.

Please take the time to enjoy this poetry collection as much as I have.

# Meet the librarians

## **Clivel Charlton - Head of Youth Services**

An experienced and enthusiastic librarian of over twenty years, Clivel is the Head of Youth Services Division. His responsibilities include day to day operations of staff, program creation & implementation, and is the library's community partnership liaison. An advocate for children, and children's literacy, Clivel works hard to inspire today's youth into becoming tomorrow's leaders.

## **Juleigh Paradise - Children's Librarian**

Juleigh has been a children's librarian for twenty-three years! Her mother instilled in her family a love of reading by taking the opportunity to read to them every night at bedtime. A lover of the arts, Juleigh enjoys dancing, walking, and of course reading. Her other hobbies are collecting owls, lighthouses and ladybugs.

## **Anne Zadora - Youth Librarian**

Now in her fifth year as a librarian, Anne is as inquisitive as the patrons she meets. A firm believer in the ideology that there is no such thing as "not a reader", she strives to match the medium and the story to the reader. Outside of library life, Anne is an avid crafter, gamer, animal lover and collector of literature-inspired art prints.

## **Kyle Garcia - Youth Librarian**

Kyle brings to Youth services a burst of fun, creative energy that inspires the playful side of everyone he meets. Like his cohort, Kyle is an avid reader, with a strong preference for audiobooks, graphic novels and manga. In his free time, Kyle enjoys watching anime, playing role playing games and other video games. His knowledge of geek culture has inspired all of Youth Services to think further outside of the box than ever.

SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

**48TH ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST**

**Themes by Grade**

**Grades K-3**

- 1.) *Animals*
- 2.) *My favorite Thing*
- 3.) *Who are your Superheroes?*

**Grades 4-6**

- 1.) *Spooky, Scary Things*
- 2.) *My Mad Scientist Invention*
- 3.) *What's Your Ideal World?*

**Grades 7-8**

- 1.) *Make a Haiku*
- 2.) *Social Media - Hero or Zero?*
- 3.) *What Empowers you to be Fierce?*

SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

**48TH ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST**

**FIRST PLACE WINNERS**

**Grade**

- K     Untitled: Nathaniel Selim**
- 1     There were 0 entries for Grade 1**
- 2     Football: Jayce Boatwright**
- 3     Spiders Are Bright But They Give a Fright: Zaniyah Stewart**
- 4     The Dragon's Lair: Gavriel Bree**
- 5     Untitled: Ali Serdah**
- 6     What Makes a Hero: Nia Williams**
- 7     What Makes Me Fierce?: Amyr Hill**
- 8     Social Media: Friend or Foe: Emre Azizoglu**

**\*All poems appear as they were received\***

Of all the fun things I Like to do  
is spending my time with you

You help me brush my teeth and comb my hair  
Opps sometimes you help me find my underwear

You cook me loads of yummy food  
but also sneak the healthy ones too

Everyday I learn something new  
all the while you hold my hand and tie my shoe

Spending time with you is my favorite  
thing to do

Nathaniel Selim  
Kindergarten





### *Football*

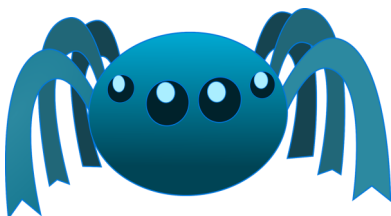
*I love football even  
though I am not tall, I  
throw the ball but  
never in the hall*

*I play with  
my cousin and have a  
ball. Oh football! oh  
football! once I'm tall I'll  
be able to catch the ball*

*Jayce Boatwright  
Grade Two*

SPIDERS ARE BRIGHT BUT THEY GIVE A FRIGHT

*MY FAVORITE ANIMAL IS SPIDERS. ALOT OF  
PEOPLE THINK THEY ARE SCARY .BUT I  
THINK THEY ARE HAIRY WHEN THEY BITE  
THEY MIGHT GIVE YOU A FRIGHT. THERE'RE  
FANGS ARE LONG BUT VERY STRONG. THEY  
HAVE MANY LEGS TO CATCH THERE'RE  
PREY. THEY HAVE EIGHT EYES SO THEY CAN  
SEE JUST FINE. WHEN THEY CATCH YOU IN  
THERE'RE EYES THEY MIGHT JUST MAKE YOU TERRIFIDE.  
SPIDERS ARE THE BEST  
SOME PEOPLE HAVE THEM AS A PET.  
SOME PEOPLE LIKE THEM SOME PEOPLE  
DON'T IF YOU GET TO CLOSE THEY MIGHT  
BITE YOU AND. YOU MIGHT HAVE A STROKE.*



ZANIYAH STEWART

*Grade Three*

## *The Dragon's Lair*

*I am a dragon killer.*

*I used to be a flour miller.*

*One day a fighter came,  
He wanted to know my name.*

*I didn't tell him, but he told me this,  
Please go to a cave in the mountains, that's pretty hard to  
miss.*

*So I grabbed my gear and started to go.  
But then he grabbed me and said he had something to show.*

*A sword and a whole fighting kit,  
I took them and started the journey to the Mountain Zrit.*

*I went to the mountain and was attacked,  
I figured it was sacked.*

*I was wrong so I pulled my sword named Quex,  
It really was a flying T-Rex.*

*(con't)*

*But there wasn't one of them Oh no! There was more.  
Six of them were just digging up the floor.*

*They all turned to me and jumped at my face,  
But then I dodged them and ran with such grace.*

*I came into the cave and there was a roar  
There was smoke that made my eyes sore.*

*Then there was a fire and a dragon came,  
I very quickly knew his name.*

*He was an ice dragon named Quuckwrequackwucka Querex,  
He was half dragon and half T-Rex.*

*I lunged at him and sliced his head.  
He fell like a boulder and was dead.*

*I went to the city and got a gold medal  
And that's what happened with me and that fighter whose name  
was Ackwuckwedat.*

*Gavriel Bree  
Grade Four*



*THINK OF A WORLD WITH  
PEACE AND LOVE WITH  
JOY AND HOPE*

*THINK OF A WORLD WERE  
THEY GIVE US HOPE  
THINK OF A WORLD WHERE  
THEY GIVE AND GIVE  
WITH  
KIND ALL AROUND  
THINK OF A WORLD WITH  
FREE PS5'S AND NEW  
GAMES  
AND MORE SPORTS MORE  
LIFE THINK OF A WORLD*



*ALI SERDAH  
Grade Five*

## WHAT MAKES A

## HERO

*In the world we live in today  
it is more likely that the way you look will  
matter more to people  
than the way you think  
we can all be heroes for a lot of people  
that feel like zeroes*

### **DR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR**

*was on almost every news channel fighting for  
people that looked like him  
because he was done being mistreated  
for the color of his skin  
he knew he didn't want his kids to be victims  
of what he and a lot of other people of color  
were victims of*

*(con't)*



## **ROSA PARKS**

*Stood up by sitting down  
she was sick of being manhandled and tossed  
around  
like she wasn't worth a thing  
so she took a strong swing  
which make people start listening  
now these might just bet two people  
but these are heroes  
and we can all be heroes  
power to all of the people.*

*Nia Williams*

*Grade Six*

## What Makes Me Fierce?

What makes me fierce is being my own independent  
person

What makes me fierce is by being who I was born to be  
as a human being

What makes me fierce is my family and friends that I  
have

What makes me fierce is what happens to me in this  
world

We may have our ups and downs, but we are all fierce to  
be who we are as people

If someone came up to me and asked me what makes me  
fierce I will just say by being me.

And if someone asks you to what makes you fierce, just say  
by being you.

Because if you just be you, you will make a change in this world.

And that is what makes me fierce.



Amyr Hill  
Grade Seven

## Social Media: Friend or Foe

Social media, a mirror to our digital selves,  
A tool that connects us all in a different realm.

With the power to unite and inspire,  
Or tear us apart with its toxic fire.

It's a platform to share our stories and voice,  
And reach out to those who have no choice.  
A means to stay connected with loved ones from afar,  
And find new friends from wherever they are.

But it can also be a villain tearing us apart,  
With cyberbullying and hate in its heart.  
Disseminating false information and lies,  
And spreading division and distrust in our eyes.

It's a place with lots of inspiration,  
Which makes our hearts whole.  
But also filled with lots of discrimination,  
Where hatred ruins the soul.

It's up to us to choose and decide,  
To see beyond the façade and the guide.  
To use social media as a force for good,  
And embrace the positivity that endures.



Emre Azizoglu  
Grade Eight

SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

**45TH ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST**

**HONORABLE MENTION**

**Grade**

- K   Untitled: Cassius Sinclair**
- 1   There were 0 entries for Grade 1**
- 2   cats and fish: Aidan McIntosh**
- 3   My Favorite food: Harmony Hill**
- 4   The Creepy Cave: Sarah C. Da Silva**
- 5   Reality: Christina Rosa Lorenzo**
- 6   Scary Gary: Michael Alves**
- 7   Social Media: Tatiana Leandry**
- 8   Empowered Fierceness: Kamorah Fenton**

**\*All poems appear as they were received\***

*My favorite thing is my  
Bounce house. It's like my  
Clubhouse. I jump and have  
Fun.*

*Cassius Sinclair  
Kindergarten*



## *Cats and fish*

*My favorite animal is a cat, I like to pat it  
but I have a fish if I had  
a cat and a fish the cat  
will Dip is paw in the  
tank take out  
and eat it and the  
fish will be in the  
cat stomach I will see where the fish went  
and kick the cat outside.*

*Aidan McIntosh*

*Grade Two*



*My favorite food*

*Rice*

*My favorite food is rice.*

*I like my drinks with ice.*

*rice is better than*

*having mice. rice is the best when I am  
stressed. I Like rice on a dish when I am finish I  
make a wish.*

*Harmony Hill  
Grade Three*



## *The Creepy Cave*

*As I approached I had no coach,  
I had been told to be bold.  
It was no easy job.  
I heard my wheezy breath blow.  
I had nowhere to go.  
I went inside the creepy cave.  
I knew I had to be brave.  
I saw all the bats ahead.  
And I thought in my head.  
It was going to be okay, as I walked down the rocky hallway.  
It started to get dark.  
I looked around and saw a spark.  
“What could it be?” I thought.  
As I approached the little light, when I got there it was no delight.  
Instead, it was an unusual little doll.  
Me and my stomach began to calm down  
The little doll had dark brown eyes.  
As a matter of fact, it was small in size.  
The doll’s hair was black and dark.  
The doll also had a mark.  
Her cheek had a scar,*

*She opened her eyes and moved very far.*

*“How did you move?”*

*I asked in fright.*

*She gave a little chuckle.*

*And hit me with her knuckle!*

*“Ow what did you do that for?”*

*“Don’t ask me once more.”*

*“Or your face will end up on the floor.”*

*I opened my eyes*

*And wished I was wise.*

*It was a dream.*

*I guess I didn’t have to scream.*

*Sarah C. Da Silva*

*Grade Four*



## *Reality*

*THERE'S A LOT OF CRIMES AND HATE  
ESPECIALLY THE FAKE  
BUT WHAT WE HAVE WE NEED TO  
APPRECIATE  
AND CELEBRATE, THAT WILL BE  
GREAT  
BECAUSE AT THE END OF THE DAY  
YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE AND CAN GO  
YOUR OWN WAY.*



*Christina Rosa Lorenzo  
Grade Five*

# SCARY GARY

I WORTE A POEM ABOUT A  
GNOME'M  
HIS NAME WAS SCARY AND VERY  
HAIRY IT....IS .....GARY  
GARY HAD TO CARRY A VERY MERRY  
BARRY  
HE BURIED A BARRY TO GROW A  
VERY ... SCARY...HAIRY ...MERRY  
BERRY....TREE  
GARY IS VERY SCARY AND HAIRY  
HE EATS BERRIES AND THE BERRIES  
ARE VERY SCARY BECAUSE THEY  
LOOK LIKE GARY



Michael Alves  
Grade Six

## Social Media

Social media is a place where we are constantly trying to  
prove ourselves

Social media where we're more sad than glad

Social media where we smile and laugh but it doesn't last

Social media where we hide our feelings and shift our ways  
to see another person with a smile on their face

Social media where the camera repeats our every move

Our every lump we try to smooth

Just so the camera could pick up on a happy mood

But what really happens behind the camera?

Is our life really that perfect?

What is the reality of social media?

Are we really always in a good mood, is it really you?

Do you smell the fresh breeze on every summer day

Does the snow really fall on your face?

Does your hair move in the breeze with such perfection?

Does your every move have a reflection

No, but does it really matter

Who cares about the weather

(con't)

Whether it's spring or fall  
Whether it's summer or winter  
Whether it's day or night  
Whether the weather is a sunny bright sky  
Or a rainy cold night  
We still have bright smiles on our faces  
Like we don't have our own races  
Social media can give off brutality  
But it's our choice to make it a reality

Tatiana Leandry  
Grade Seven



# EMPOWERED FIERCENESS



I AM FIERCE, FUELED BY FIRE  
BURNING WITH PASSION, NEVER TO TIRE  
MY STRENGTH COMES FROM THE DEPTHS OF MY SOUL  
EMPOWERED BY THE FORCE THAT MAKES ME WHOLE  
WITH A HEART FULL OF PASSION, I BLAZE MY TRAIL  
MY STRENGTH, MY COURAGE, WILL NEVER FAIL  
FOR I AM A LEO, BORN TO LEAD  
MY ROAR ECHOES, MY PRESENCE, INDEED.  
IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY, I STAND TALL  
MY HEART, MY GUIDE, MY BEACON THROUGH IT ALL  
SELF-LOVE, SELF-CARE, IS WHERE I BEGIN  
IN THE DEPTHS OF MY HEART, I FIND THE STRENGTH TO WIN  
SO HERE'S TO YOU, MY DEAR FRIENDS SO TRUE  
MY, LOVE, MY GRADITUDE, I OFFER TO YOU  
FOR IN YOUR LOVE, I FIND THE STRENGTH TO BE  
THE BEST VERSION OF MYSELF, WILD AND FREE  
NO FORCE CAN DIM THE LIGHT THAT SHINES WITHIN  
I AM FIERCE, I AM STRONG, AND I AM READY TO BEGIN  
FOR I AM EMPOWERED BY THE STRENGTH OF MY HEART  
I WILL PRESERVE, I WILL TRIUMPH, I WILL PLAY MY HEART.

KAMORAH FENTON  
GRADE EIGHT

# JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

The Friends contribute a variety of materials, equipment and services not financed in the annual city budget. They also provide support for Library programs and activities involving the community. New members are welcome to join the Friends of the Library and share their talents and experience for improved total library service. The Friends of the Library meet the second Tuesday of even numbered months at the Silas Bronson Library.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in volunteer work?      YES                      NO

### Membership fees

Individual	\$25
Senior/Student	\$15
Patron	\$50
Organization	\$50
Business/Corporate	\$100
Other Contribution	\$_____

VISIT [WWW.BRONSONLIBRARY.ORG/FRIENDS](http://WWW.BRONSONLIBRARY.ORG/FRIENDS) FOR MORE INFORMATION

## GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

**You can help the Library.** Gifts in any amount are always welcome. Memorial gifts for departed relatives or friends are a special way to honor their memory. A bequest in your will is also a very special way to remember the Library and the entire community. Donors' wishes for handling gifts and bequests are carefully followed. Gifts and bequests are tax deductible.



*Thank You For  
Your  
Participation!*