

POETRY

OUT LOUD

NATIONAL RECITATION CONTEST

ARIZONA STATE
Recitation
FINALS 2010

**BURTON BARR
CENTRAL LIBRARY
AUDITORIUM
PHOENIX, ARIZONA**

March 5, 2010



Arizona
Commission
on the Arts



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS

POETRY



FOUNDATION

Letter from the Executive Director

I want to welcome everyone to the **Fifth Annual Poetry Out Loud State Recitation Finals**. Over the past four years, I have had the pleasure of watching Arizona high school students compete in the *Poetry Out Loud* program, sponsored by the Arizona Commission on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. In its fifth year, nearly 11,000 high school students participated in the Arizona statewide competition.

Those of you here today, the recitation champions of your schools, represent communities across our state. You worked hard to get here, honing your skills with professional poets, theatre and english teachers and, of course, your families. Walt Whitman said, "To have great poets, there must be great audiences." My personal thanks go out to all the audiences who, with love and attention, listened to the verses you memorized for today's competition.



Pictured: Fifty-three champions from every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands competed at the 2009 National *Poetry Out Loud* Recitation Contest. © James Kegley. Courtesy of National Endowment for the Arts.

Of all the arts events I participate in across our great state, I always look forward to the State *Poetry Out Loud* Finals. Watching such a diverse group of exceptional young people stand tall, recite and display their understanding and love of poetry is truly remarkable and inspiring. You are all winners today.

Poetry invokes us to grow. How that happens is a mystery, but we are not the same after reading a great poem.

You are to be congratulated for your accomplishment, no matter the outcome of today's events. You made these poems your own, by getting inside them, learning their meanings and interpreting the spirit of the poems in your own voice. These are skills that transcend poetry, skills that will open you to new ways of thinking in whatever direction you choose to go.

*Robert C. Booker, Executive Director
Arizona Commission on the Arts*

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Introduction

Poetry Out Loud is a national poetry recitation contest for high school students that begins in the classroom and culminates with the *Poetry Out Loud* National Finals in Washington D.C. By inviting the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word and theatre into the English class, *Poetry Out Loud* encourages the nation's youth to learn about great poetry by studying, memorizing and performing some of the most influential and timeless poems of the English language. Through *Poetry Out Loud*, students can master public speaking skills, build self-confidence and learn about their literary heritage.

A program of the **National Endowment for the Arts** and **The Poetry Foundation**, *Poetry Out Loud* is delivered in all 50 states and three territories through partnerships with state arts agencies. The Arizona *Poetry Out Loud* program is managed and supported by the **Arizona Commission on the Arts**.

This evening's event, the **2010 Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Finals**, is hosted by the Burton Barr Central Library and proudly presented by the Arizona Commission on the Arts in partnership with Arizona State University's Young Writers Program and The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing.

This year, nearly 11,000 Arizona students and 150 teachers participated in *Poetry Out Loud*. We congratulate all participating teachers and students on a successful year of *Poetry Out Loud* in their classrooms and schools!

Student finalists representing 24 schools from across Arizona will be competing today for the title of Arizona *Poetry Out Loud* State Champion. The winner of the 2010 Arizona State Finals will receive \$200, and the winner's school library will receive a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. The second place finalist will receive \$100, with \$200 for his or her school library.

In addition, the **Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Champion** will receive an all-expenses-paid trip (with a chaperone) to compete in the National Finals in Washington D.C., April 25-27, 2010. The *Poetry Out Loud* National Finals will award a total of \$50,000 in scholarships and school stipends, with a \$20,000 college scholarship for the *Poetry Out Loud* National Champion.

For more information, visit www.azarts.gov/pol or www.poetryoutloud.org.

Recitation Schedule

Semifinals

12:00 – 5:00pm

Welcome

First Round

Break

Second Round

Break

Recognition of Student Contestants

Announcement of Eight Finalists

Finals

7:00 – 9:00pm

Welcome

First Round

Break

Second Round

Guest Reading

Announcement of Four Finalists

Final Round

Announcement of State Champion and Runner-Up

Contest Structure and Evaluation Criteria

The **2010 Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Finals** is comprised of two separate contests; the Semifinals and the Finals.

Semifinals

In the Semifinals, all student contestants recite two poems. Students are scored for each poem, scores are tallied and the eight students with the highest scores advance to the Finals.

Finals

In the Finals, the eight students who advance from the Semifinals again recite two poems. The scores of the two recitations are tallied and the four students with the highest scores recite a third poem. After this final round of recitations, the score of the third poem is added to the students' first set of scores. The student with the highest score is named the Arizona *Poetry Out Loud* State Champion; the second highest scoring student is named First Place Runner-up.

The Semifinals and Finals are judged by two different sets of judges. Scoring in *Poetry Out Loud* is cumulative between judges' scores and from round to round, however scores from the Semifinals do not carry over to the Finals.

Each student will be evaluated using the following criteria:

Physical Presence

Voice and Articulation

Appropriateness of Dramatization

Level of Difficulty

Evidence of Understanding

Overall Performance

Additionally, a maximum of eight points will be assigned for accuracy.

For your reference, you will find a sample Contest Evaluation Sheet on the next page. Enjoy the recitations!

Poetry Out Loud Contest Evaluation Sheet

Contest Evaluation Sheet

Name of Performer: _____

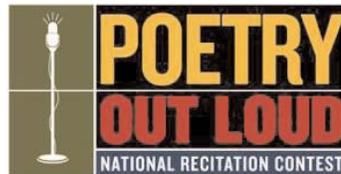
Title of Poem: _____

	Very Weak	Weak	Average	Good	Excellent	Outstanding
Physical Presence	1	2	3	4	5	6
Voice and Articulation	1	2	3	4	5	6
Appropriateness of Dramatization	1	2	3	4	5	6
Level of Difficulty	1	2	3	4	5	6
Evidence of Understanding	1	2	3	4	5	6
Overall Performance	2	4	6	8	10	12

TOTAL: _____ (MAXIMUM of 42 points)

ACCURACY ADDITION: _____ (MAXIMUM of 8 points)

FINAL SCORE: _____



Student Finalists



Amberly Roudybush, Amphitheater High School, Tucson

"Larkinesque" by Michael Ryan

"the mother" by Gwendolyn Brooks

Amberly, a senior at Amphitheater High School, was born and raised in Tucson. She lives with her grandparents, Mark and Kathy, who adopted her. She has a whole slew of siblings. Reading novels and poems is her hobby and she is looking forward to the opportunity to perform at the state *Poetry Out Loud* competition.



Leila Duman, Arizona School for the Arts, Phoenix

"Holy Sonnets: Death, be not proud" by John Donne

"Ode on the Death of a Favourite Cat, Drowned in a Tub of Goldfishes" by Thomas Gray

Leila is a native of Tempe. She is thrilled to be at the state finals. She sings and plays the bassoon at Arizona School for the Arts. Next fall, Leila will be attending Bard College where she hopes to "find herself" and, less figuratively, figure out what she wants to do with the rest of her life. Leila enjoys fun, humor and more than a little oddity in her life, so she feels tremendously lucky to have family and friends who support her in whatever she does; music, pinkies, crazy and all.



Kate Nienhauser, BASIS Scottsdale High School, Scottsdale

"Litany" by Billy Collins

"War is Kind [Do not weep, maiden, for war is kind]" by Stephen Crane

Kate is a senior at BASIS Scottsdale High School where she is an active member of the Leadership Program. She has performed in numerous productions, including youth and professional theater. Major credits include Hermia from *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, Emily from *Our Town* and Madge from *Picnic*. She has loved poetry since she was assigned to write her first poem in 3rd grade.



Jean-Luc Cavnar-Lewandowski, Brophy College Preparatory, Phoenix

"Holy Sonnets: Batter my heart, three-person'd God" by John Donne

"The Empty Dance Shoes" by Cornelius Eady

Jean-Luc is a senior at Brophy College Preparatory. He has a deep seeded passion for the arts and focuses much of his time in theatre, music and dance. He is a participant on the Speech and Debate team and the International Thespian Society, and is a Phoenix City Student Ambassador. He hopes to study performance arts in the future and share his love of creativity with others.



Nicole Thompson, Cactus High School, Glendale

"Echo" by Daryl Hine

"War is Kind [Do not weep, maiden, for war is kind]" by Stephen Crane

Nicole is a senior at Cactus High School. She is very involved in theatre as a drama club officer and is an active Thespian Society member. She is planning to attend Phoenix College and transfer to a university after two years as a Theatre Arts major.

Student Finalists



Elizabeth Andronic, Centennial High School, Peoria

"I Am!" by John Clare
"Hate Poem" by Julie Sheehan

Elizabeth's life goal is to be the oldest woman to ever dive out of an airplane and plummet to the earth only to land gently and to saunter home proud of her brave life endeavors. Elizabeth definitely is not the typical American girl as she holds strongly to her Romanian heritage all the while developing her profound love for America. To Elizabeth, life is a stage upon which fabulous tales are lived out and dreams are pursued. Passionately, she embraces these experiences and strives toward that standing ovation.



Cason D. Smithson, Coconino High School, Flagstaff

"A Red, Red Rose" by Robert Burns
"Jabberwocky" by Lewis Carroll

Cason loves to write, draw, dance, sing, act and read. He loves poetry. He loves to write stories and poems and plans on publishing a series.



Brittney Moreno, Copper Canyon High School, Glendale

"Over the Roofs" by Sara Teasdale
"Jabberwocky" by Lewis Carroll

Brittney has participated in the *Poetry Out Loud* program at Copper Canyon High School for three years. She also serves her school in several leadership capacities, including Student Body Vice President, President of the Future Journalists Club, Editor-in-Chief of the school newsletter and newspaper and Varsity Cheer Captain.



Spencer Vandevier, Kingman High School, Kingman

"A Psalm of Life" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
"Spring" by William Shakespeare

Spencer's love for poetry was inspired by his sister who introduced him to it. He enjoys drama, music and writing. After high school Spencer wants to study music and is interested in attending Northern Arizona University.



Gabriel Angel Vazquez, La Joya Community High School, Avondale

"Playing Dead" by Andrew Hudgins
"Invictus" by William Ernest Henley

Standing tall at 6 feet, 8 inches is Gabriel Angel Vazquez. Also known as Gabe, he has a knack for math and highly enjoys the performing arts. He is also a musician of sorts, and the guitar is his favorite instrument. Gabe Vazquez never goes anywhere without his deep La Joya Lobo pride.

Student Finalists



Angelica Martinez, Maricopa High School, Maricopa

"Dream Song 14" by John Berryman

"Annabel Lee" by Edgar Allan Poe

Angelica is a junior at Maricopa High School. She was born in San Fernando, California and moved to Arizona her freshman year. She is involved in cross country, track and field, and her school's LINK crew.



Ariana Alexander, Mogollon High School, Heber

"Medusa" by Louise Bogan

"Litany" by Billy Collins

A longtime lover of poetry, Ariana has been in the practice of memorizing her favorite poems since she was a young child. She is a talented writer, having won awards in Academic Decathlon Essay and in her AP English class. Her true passion, however, is animation, which she hopes to pursue in college and in the professional world.



Michelle Moraila, Nogales High School, Nogales

"She Walks in Beauty" by Lord Byron (George Gordon)

"A Psalm of Life" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Michelle was born in Tucson, but raised in Nogales, Mexico. She moved to Arizona at the age of fourteen and discovered her love of poetry early in her life. She is a senior at Nogales High School.



Alexandra Geter, Sedona Red Rock High School, Sedona

"Amor Mundi" by Christina Rossetti

"Sentimental" by Albert Goldbarth

Alexandra is 16 years old and a junior at Sedona Red Rock High School. She has been playing classical piano for the past nine years. Her other interests include theatre and tennis. Her favorite subjects are biology and english. Alexandra enjoys participating in school activities, such as Key Club National Honor Society and Student Council.



Joanna Clark, Seligman High School, Seligman

"Immortal Autumn" by Archibald MacLeish

"Hate Poem" by Julie Sheehan

Joanna is a fifteen year old who grew up too fast in a small town. Her mother has been by her side through thick and thin; Joanna would be lost without her. Music is Joanna's heart and soul, and she always wears her heart on her sleeve.

Student Finalists



Laramie Pajkos, Sinagua High School, Flagstaff

"Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night" by Dylan Thomas

"A Boat beneath a Sunny Sky" by Lewis Carroll

My name is Laramie and I am 15 years old. From the sixth grade on, I have been fascinated by poetry. I write my own poems. I live in Flagstaff and attend Sinagua High School.



Stefanie McNERney, St. Gregory College Preparatory School, Tucson

"Time Does Not Bring Relief: You All Have Lied" by Edna St. Vincent Millay

"A March in the Ranks Hard-Prest, and the Road Unknown" by Walt Whitman

Steffi is thrilled to represent her school in the *Poetry Out Loud* competition this year. She is in her junior year, and enjoys drawing, writing, playing basketball and volleyball. She is half-German and is fascinated by the history, culture and literature of Europe. She is bilingual in German and English and is currently studying Spanish. She dreams of becoming a veterinarian.



Andreina Aguayo, Sunnyside High School, Tucson

"Echo" by Daryl Hines

"Annabel Lee" by Edgar Allan Poe

Andie is a junior at Sunnyside High School, and her passions include writing her own poetry and singing in the school's mariachi band.



Arcelia Isais, University High – Tolleson Union High School, Tolleson

"Doña Josefina Counsels Doña Concepción Before Entering Sears" by Maurice Kilwein Guevara

"Solitude" by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Arcelia was born in Santa Maria, California in 1994. Her ethnicity is of Hispanic background from both sides of her family. They have lived in Phoenix for approximately five years. She loves playing the piano and reading Sherlock Holmes. Arcelia wants to succeed in University High so she can learn to help others when she is older.



Alejandro Ramirez, Trevor G. Browne High School, Phoenix

"Alone" by Edgar Allan Poe

"Hate Poem" by Julie Sheehan

Alejandro is the oldest of four boys. His family has been in Arizona for almost two years. He is doing very well in high school and is teaching himself Japanese. He plays the cello in the school orchestra. He plans to have a career in the medical field.

Student Finalists



Emaleigh Walter, Tri-City College Preparatory High School, Prescott

"Beautiful Wreckage" by W.D. Ehrhart
"Hate Poem" by Julie Sheehan

Emaleigh was born in New York but raised in Prescott. Her greatest passion is literature. She hopes to become a high school English teacher after she leaves the military. Other than English, she speaks Italian and dreams of one day visiting her family's hometowns of Sicile and Reggio Calabria, Italy.



Kathleen Cannon, Tucson High Magnet School, Tucson

"I Am!" by John Clare
"Domestic Violence" by Eavan Boland

Kathleen is a senior at Tucson High Magnet School. She fell in love with poetry when her grandmother first read Irish poetry to her as a young girl. Kathleen loves acting, art history and travel. She hopes to study theatre at the university level next year.



Allegra Blair Breedlove, University High School, Tucson

"Mrs. Caldera's House of Things" by Gregory Djanikian
"War is Kind (Do not weep, maiden, for war is kind)"
by Stephen Crane

Allegra is a junior at University High School. A student of theater, she is a passionate performer of drama, comedy, musical theater and opera. Allegra is an avid fan of Shakespeare and romantic authors, such as Shelley, Hugo, Emerson and Dickinson. She is very excited for this opportunity to share her interpretation of these poems and learn from other young lovers of verse. Allegra hopes to continue her arts education in college, majoring in theater and journalism.



Codie Wallace, Wickenburg High School, Wickenburg

"Ballad of Birmingham" by Dudley Randall
"When You Are Old" by William Bulter Yeats

Codie is a sophomore at Wickenburg High School. She spends her free time working with the Theatre department on their plays. Her dedication and love for poetry and performance inspired her to work hard and resulted in winning the high school *Poetry Out Loud* competition.

Judges - Semifinals



Niki Herd

Ms. Herd has been published in forums such as *Reverie: Midwest African American Literature*, *Just Like a Girl: A Manifesta!*, *From the Web: A Global Anthology of Women's Political Poetry*, *The Ringing Ear: Black Poets Lean South*, *Autumnal: A Collection of Elegies* on compact disc, *Kalliope*, *PMS: poemmemoirstory*, *10x10.8*, and *Xcp: Streetnotes Biannual Electronic Exhibition Space*. In 2007, she won the Emerging Lesbian Writer Award from Astraea Foundation for Social Justice, and received a onetime Arizona Commission on the Arts, Artist Project Grant for 2009. The same year she served as guest editor for *Drunken Boat*. A featured reader for Casa Libre en la Solana, Kore Press, the University of Arizona Poetry Center, and the Schomburg Center for Black Culture, she has been nominated twice for the Pushcart Award in poetry and lives in Tucson, Arizona.



Hannah Leister

Ms. Leister is a student at Arizona State University majoring in Theatre and graduating in May 2010. While most of her experience is in acting, she has worked at many theatres around the Valley, including Space 55 and the Prism Theatre, in a variety of collaborative capacities. In addition to her studies she is the viewer services assistant for KAET 8, and she serves as the program intern for the Arizona Commission on the Arts.



Fernando Pérez

Mr. Pérez grew up in Lakewood, CA and received his B.A. in Creative Writing from California State University, Long Beach. He is currently a candidate for an M.F.A. in Creative Writing at Arizona State University where he teaches first-year composition. He has also taught creative writing to high school students through the Young Adult Writing Project, a program that gives both troubled and talented youth a venue to discover and share their voices. Luck and a love for poetry led Fernando to Prague, Czech Republic two summers ago, to study for one month under the late Jack Meyers. Pérez's poems have been published in the *New Mexico Poetry Review* and *Crab Creek Review*. He is currently shaping his thesis manuscript into a book of poems that will hopefully soon be seen in a bookstore near you.



Henry Oso Quintero

Mr. Quintero is a Poet and resident of what many people refer to as Apacheria. He is currently finishing his doctoral dissertation at Arizona State University in Native American Literature and Peyote Music.

Judges - Finals



Rae Paris

Ms. Paris is the recipient of a 2010 National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship. The title story of her collection, *The Girl Who Ate Her Own Skin*, was a recommended story in the 2009 O. Henry Prize Stories. The collection was a finalist for the 2008 Flannery O'Connor Award in Short Fiction. Her stories have appeared in *Indiana Review* and other journals. She has a B.A. in English from UC Berkeley, and an M.F.A. in fiction from the University of Arizona. She has received writing residencies from Hedgebrook, Norcroft, and VONA. She is currently completing her first collection of stories.



Jose Quintero

Mr. Quintero is a teacher, actor, and drama in education specialist who has extensive experience in education and theatre arts. For the last three years he has had the experience of preparing youth for competition in *Poetry Out Loud* contests in Arizona and Nevada. Quintero has developed a *Poetry Out Loud* curriculum, aligning performance of poetry with language arts standard to help troubled youth find a way to express themselves creatively through the medium of poetry. Quintero often has poetry writing contests for his youth and has encouraged them to have their works published. He has also taught judges in the high schools how to judge performances using the *Poetry Out Loud* performance rubric. Quintero is a lover of poetry spoken out loud and performed.



Alberto Ríos

Mr. Ríos, a recent finalist for the National Book Award, is the author of ten books and chapbooks of poetry, including *The Theater of Night*—winner of the 2007 PEN/Beyond Margins Award—three collections of short stories, and a memoir about growing up on the border, *Capirotada*. Ríos is the recipient of numerous awards and his work is included in over 200 national and international literary anthologies. His next book, *The Dangerous Shirt*, is forthcoming. His work is regularly taught and translated, and has been adapted to dance and both classical and popular music. Ríos is a Regents' Professor and the Katharine C. Turner Chair in English at Arizona State University.



Eva Valencia

Ms. Valencia lives in Phoenix. She received an M.F.A. in poetry from Arizona State University and scholarships to the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference.

Special Guest

Featured Reading by Celebrated Arizona Poet



Alberto Álvaro Ríos, born in 1952 in Nogales, Arizona, is the author of ten books and chap-books of poetry, three collections of short stories, and a memoir. His books of poems include *The Theater of Night*, winner of the 2007 PEN/Beyond Margins Award, along with *The Smallest Muscle in the Human Body*, a finalist for the National Book Award, *Teodoro Luna's Two Kisses*, *The Lime Orchard Woman*, *The Warrington Poems*, *Five Indiscretions*, and *Whispering to Fool the Wind*. His three collections of short stories are, most recently, *The Curtain of Trees*, along with *Pig Cookies* and

The Iguana Killer. His memoir about growing up on the Mexico-Arizona border—called *Capirotada*—won the Latino Literary Hall of Fame Award and was chosen as the OneBookArizona 2009 selection.

Ríos is the recipient of the Western Literature Association Distinguished Achievement Award, the Arizona Governor's Arts Award, fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Walt Whitman Award, the Western States Book Award for Fiction, six Pushcart Prizes in both poetry and fiction, and is included in *The Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry*, as well as over 200 other national and international literary anthologies. His work is regularly taught and translated, and has been adapted to dance and both classical and popular music.

His most recent book, *The Dangerous Shirt*, is just out from Copper Canyon Press.

Ríos is a Regents' Professor at Arizona State University, where he has taught for over 28 years and where he holds the further distinction of the Katharine C. Turner Endowed Chair in English.

Thanks in part to the Young Writers Program at Arizona State University for making this reading possible.

For more information about Arizona *Poetry Out Loud*, contact Alex Nelson at (602) 771-6521 or by email at anelson@azarts.gov.

