



OREGON ARTS
COMMISSION

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Tiffany Hinano Hill of Eugene, Junior at Oregon School for the Deaf, to Represent Oregon at Washington, DC's National Poetry Out Loud Competition

Oregon's 2009 State Champion First Deaf Student to Compete in Poetry Out Loud

Jackie Lubbers, West Salem High School Junior, is Runner-up

The Oregon Arts Commission announces that Tiffany Hinano Hill of Eugene, 18, a junior at the Oregon School for the Deaf, has won Oregon's 2009 statewide *Poetry Out Loud* competition. The state competition took place on March 14, 2009 at the historic Grand Theater in Salem. *Poetry Out Loud* is a collaborative project of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation and the Oregon Arts Commission.

Tiffany is the first deaf student ever to compete in *Poetry Out Loud*. She didn't recite her poems but expressed them with American Sign Language. As winner of the Oregon competition, she wins \$200 and an all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC for herself and a chaperone. Her school receives a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. Jackie Lubbers, 17, a West Salem High School junior, was declared the state runner-up. Her prize is \$100, with her school library receiving \$200 for poetry purchases. Every contestant received a copy of *Deer Drink the Moon*, an anthology of Oregon poetry edited by Liz Nakawaza and published by Ooligan Press.

In Washington, Tiffany will represent Oregon against 52 other contestants from the states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The national competition takes place April 26 - 28 at George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium and awards a total of \$50,000 in prize money to 12 finalists (\$20,000 for the winner; \$10,000 to the first runner up; \$5,000 in to the second runner-up; and \$1,000 each to the other nine finalists). Their schools receive \$500 for their libraries. In all, *Poetry Out Loud* awards more than \$100,000 at state- and national-level contests.

2,000 students at 22 Oregon high schools participated in *Poetry Out Loud* this year. All state-level contestants prepared three poems from a 400-poem anthology provided by the

National Endowment for the Arts. Each recited two poems, with 13 advancing to the second round to perform a second poem and eight finalists performing a third. The contestants were judged by Oregon Poet Laureate Lawson Inada; Sophia Soberon, 2008 national *Poetry Out Loud* runner-up and Oregon state champion; Scott Poole, poet-in-residence, Live Wire!; Mindi L. Logan, theater professor, University of Portland; and Jeff Wildenstein, poet and sign interpreter. The criteria included physical presence, accuracy, voice and articulation, appropriateness of dramatization, evidence of understanding, level of difficulty and overall performance.

The eight state-level finalists were:

Bandon High School: Caitlyn McLauchlin, age 16, grade 11 (Ellen Howard, coordinator)

Crook County High School, Prineville: Nathaniel Dunaway, grade 10 (Anita Hoffman, coordinator)

Grants Pass High School: Jessica Peterson, age 18, grade 12 (Tori Marshall, coordinator)

Madison High School, Portland: Elie Hoover, age 16, grade 10 (Daniel, Fredgant coordinator)

Oregon School for the Deaf, Salem: Tiffany Hinano Hill (from Eugene), age 18, grade 11 (Sharla Jones, Gayle Robertson, coordinators)

Salem Academy: Katharine Hormann, age 17, grade 12 (Sara Patrick, coordinator)

South Medford High School: Sadie Burt, age 16, grade 10 (Clancy Rone, coordinator)

West Salem High School: Jackie Lubbers, age 17, grade 11 (Christina Eddy, coordinator)

with the remaining school-level winners being:

Arlington High School: Kirsten Stephens, age 16, grade 10 (Charles VanGorder, coordinator)

Cascade Christian School, Medford: Tori Francis, age 16, grade 11 (Suzanne Ray, coordinator)

Centennial High School, Gresham: Amanda Watson, age 17, grade 11 (Jen Loeung, coordinator)

Center for Advanced Learning, Gresham: Natalyia Payne, grade 11 (Rita Ramstad, coordinator)

Condon High School: Elise Heidy, age 18, grade 12 (Mike Keown, coordinator)

Hidden Valley High School, Grants Pass: McKenzie Mitchell, age 17, grade 11 (Julia Richardson, coordinator)

Hood River Valley High School: Patrick Sadil, age 17, grade 11 (Regena Rafelson, coordinator)

Metropolitan Learning Center, Portland: Elena Hess, age 16, grade 11 (Stephen Lambert, coordinator)

Redmond High School: Monica Brown, age 16, grade 11 (Rachel Sarrett, coordinator)

Sam Barlow High School, Gresham: Theresa Tyree, age 17, grade 12 (Robyn Rose, coordinator)

Sherwood High School: Hilary Forster, age 17, grade 12 (Jared Jones, coordinator)

Sprague High School, Salem: Merry Borchers, age 17, grade 11 (Michael Curry, coordinator)

Veritas School, Newberg: Jordan Enobakhare, age 15, grade 12 (Megan Hills, coordinator)

Woodburn Arts and Communications Academy: Brianna Eamons, age 17, grade 12 (Desiree Kiesel, coordinator)

Tiffany performed "Ars Poetica" by Archibald MacLeish, "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" by

William Wordsworth and "Inside Out" by Diane Wakowski. Jackie recited "Famous" by Naomi Shihab Nye, "The Children's Hour" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and "The Death of Allegory" by Billy Collins.

Tiffany commented that "Inside Out" was her favorite of the poems she performed. She appreciated its complexity and was especially drawn to its vivid imagery. She hopes to attend the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, one of the eight colleges that comprise the Rochester Institute for Technology in Rochester, New York.

Poetry Out Loud encourages high school students to learn about great poetry through memorization, performance and competition. More than 200,000 students across the country are expected to take part in *Poetry Out Loud* this year. For more information: www.poetryoutloud.org.

For more information about *Poetry Out Loud* in Oregon, contact Deb Vaughn at the Oregon Arts Commission: 503-986-0085, deborah.vaughn@state.or.us.

About the National Endowment for the Arts

The NEA is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts - both new and established - bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Arts Endowment is the largest national funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities and military bases.

About the Poetry Foundation

The Poetry Foundation, publisher of *Poetry* magazine, is committed to a vigorous presence for poetry in our culture. One of the largest literary organizations in the world, it exists to discover and celebrate the best poetry and to place it before the largest possible audience. The Poetry Foundation seeks to be a leader in shaping a receptive climate for poetry by developing new audiences, creating new avenues for delivery, and encouraging new kinds of poetry through innovative literary prizes and programs. In addition to launching a major new poetry Web site, the Poetry Foundation recently conducted the first-ever study designed to find out where poetry stands in American culture. More information: www.PoetryFoundation.org

About the Oregon Arts Commission

The Oregon Arts Commission provides leadership, funding and arts programs through its grants, special initiatives and services. Nine commissioners, appointed by the Governor, determine arts needs and establish policies for public support of the arts. The Arts Commission became part of the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department in 1993 in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities. In 2003, the Oregon legislature moved the operations of the Oregon Cultural Trust to the Arts Commission, streamlining operations and making use of the Commission's expertise in grantmaking, arts and cultural information and community cultural development. The Arts Commission is supported with General Funds appropriated by the Oregon legislature, federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust.