

LifeLines Poetry Competition 2014

Once again, we received a lot of entries for this year's poetry competition, showcasing a variety of writing styles and themes. Thank you to everyone who sent their work for the competition. We are pleased to bring you the winning entries in this issue, and look forward to sharing as many of the other poems as we can throughout the year.

Thanks must also go to our judging panel, who had the challenging task of selecting the winners. All the entries were typed and sent without names to the judges, who then chose their top ten. Points were allocated according to the results; congratulations to George, Steven and Michael, whose poems received the most points overall 😊

1st Prize At the Zoo

A group of people,
tight like a knobby fist,
walk by jabbing and hooking
their fingers at the glass,
whispering behind hands with nods and shrugs
as they openly stare at the spectacle:
the wild animals continue their tame lives
numb to the intrusion.
The crowd snakes forward
toward the next exhibit, shaking their heads, and
slightly disappointed by the simple humanity
of the men on death row.
A pretty girl, a little embarrassed,
looks back and waves good-bye;
She alone saw the truth.

George T. Wilkerson, North Carolina

Your *Wing* needs you!

The Wing is only as good as you make it! We would love to hear from anyone who would like to contribute to the newsletter and are happy to accept art work, poetry, prose, jokes or anything else that you feel our readers might be interested in. We welcome original, unpublished submissions from anyone who is or has been on the row, and LifeLines members.

Whilst we can't promise to print everything, we will give all material serious consideration. Our contact details are on p.33. Thank you!

Caz and Liz

LifeLines Poetry Competition 2015

Many thanks to everyone who entered the LifeLines poetry competition this year. As is often the case, we received a large number of entries and all of the judges commented on the high standard – which made their decision-making tricky! The entries were judged anonymously; the poems were sent to the panel typed and without names or other identifying features. Once they had each chosen their top ten, points were assigned and the winning entries identified. You will notice that one author received two prizes (joint 1st and 2nd); this sometimes happens because each person is able to enter up to three poems into the competition.

Congratulations to John, George and Darrell! We are happy to share their poetry with you this time and look forward to printing more of the entries in future editions of *The Wing*.

Joint 1st Prize Carpe Diem

Arms outstretched
mouth open wide
to drink the sky

a child spins

to send boredom running
in rivulets down her arms
and flinging off her fingertips...

The weather pauses -
the ballerina looks down
at her sequin-covered gown,

so precious

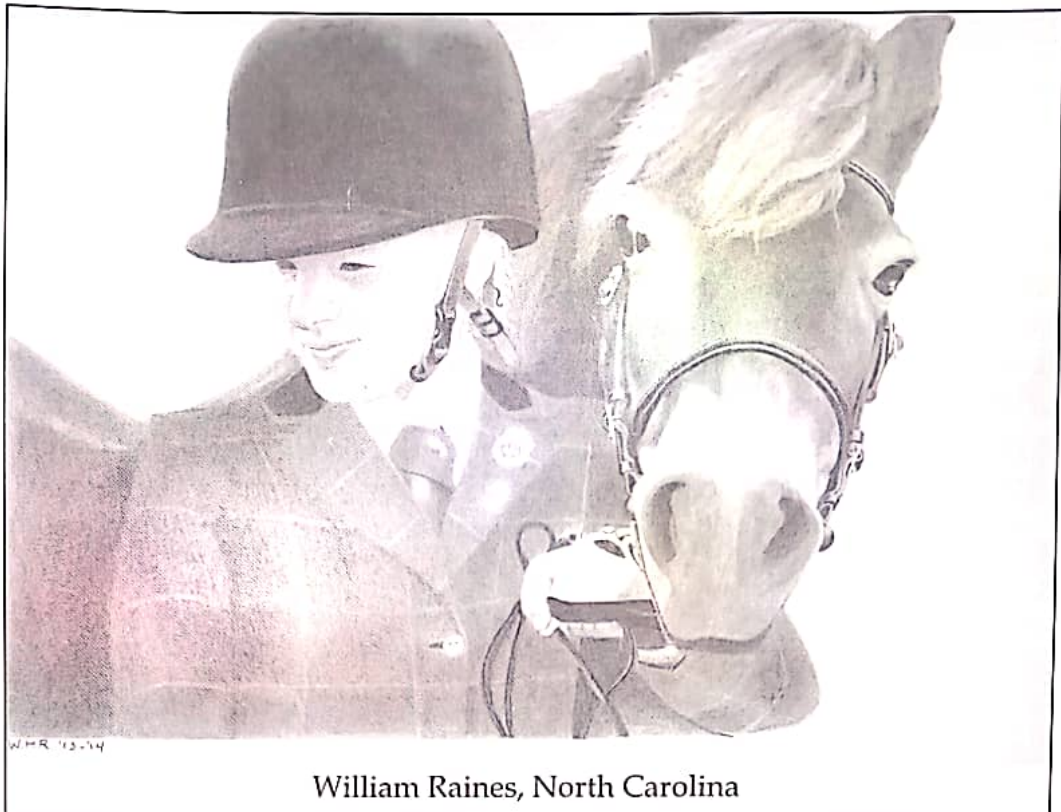
is this little princess
who even hugs the stuffing
out of rainy days.

George T. Wilkerson, North Carolina

Far beyond the end of being, lost
among the dance of creation.
Like a teardrop in the rain, is the
truth of the spirit. To find it is to
become one with all.

Edward James, Florida





William Raines, North Carolina

This pencil drawing was created from a small coloured photo sent to William by his pen friend.

2nd Prize The Blacksmith

Sweats drips beneath
the clang and clamor,
puddling at feet,
quenching sparks that rain from hammer.

Tongs are clamped around an ingot
of an idea,
the tip of which lies
cooling, misshapen on the anvil.

Dip again into the forge
between hard-pressed lips
as forehead furrows from the scorch
of concentration. Glowing white,
crackling with creative energy,
smoldering eyes squint and flex
as they reshape words and phrases
to craft an alloy

out of an idea and physical pain.
Then the beating begins again
on page with pen
until a sharp and shiny poem
has emerged.

George T. Wilkerson, North Carolina