

Balticon 42 Poetry Contest Winners

Wind Up

To Kepler, Newton, Carl "Oisk" Erskine
and Jim Bouton

Beamed home from the first
flight to the moon, green-blue
images of Earth hang against
a matte black backdrop.
As it grooves its orbit, I wonder
if it was pitched long ago,
smoke from some Celestial wrist,
snapped into that deep void?
Did it float off a Cosmic
knuckle to dip and dive, to die –
not with a bang but a flutter?
Are we but flecks of spit
on a slow spinning curve ball,
a fling of yarn and cowhide
riding time to break low inside
or up, up and away?

1st Place
Patricia Budd
Portland, ME

Sekhmet Upon the Horizon

Egyptian eyes
like lapis lazuli
magic
crystals and stars
or some new onyx
all afire
casting glitter and rainbows
from behind
comforting curtains

the rapture
is inexorable
those eyes erect
shadows in their wake
and burn souls
to ash
gods to sand

kaleidoscopic gaze
resurrects
fading hieroglyphs
crumbling papyri and
disintegrating bandages
with just one wink

3rd Place
Christa A. Bergerson
Lombard, IL



Moonlight and Vines

Art © 2008 by John Jude Palencar

“I Love You for Your Brains, Not Your Looks” (Zombie Love Song)

Hot nights, bayous and byways –
sift! settle and shift,
make room for
the dead of us;
for summer comes and they, too,
walk ways swampstruck and moonshined,
hold hands with fingers rasping
like rust.

They have the knack of it still, can conjure
the silken snarl of tongues,
the inward flip
(now undertaken by
jaw-worms and blowflies),
the castanet-quick report
as hipbones close
like clasped hands.

Nights like these, yes even the *zombi* loves,
dead-fruit moon hanging,
cicadas working away at
bonesaws in the brassy hills
to groans of
undying love.

2nd Place

*Diana Chien
Holmdel, NJ*

Enter the Annual Balticon Poetry Contest!

- Entries should address the themes of science fiction/fantasy/horror/science.
- 1st prize: \$100; 2nd prize: \$75; 3rd prize: \$50.
- Winners will receive a cash prize, convention membership and be invited to read their winning entries at Balticon. Winning entries will be published in the BSFAN, the Balticon souvenir book. Attendance at Balticon is not required to win.
- Limit: 3 poems/person, maximum 50 lines each.
- No entry fee.
- Deadline: Mailed entries must be postmarked, and e-mail entries received, by April 1. Please include your name, address, phone & e-mail address and a brief bio with your entry.
- Entries may be e-mailed to <poetry@bsfs.org> or mailed to “Balticon Poetry Contest,” c/o BSFS, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203.
- Info: Email: <poetry@bsfs.org> or web: <<http://www.bsfs.org/bsfspoetry>>.

About the Poets

Patricia Budd (First Place)—Patricia Budd retired as a professional computer engineer, moved to Portland, ME and received her MFA from Stonecoast in July of 2006. She has two sons, three grandchildren and a theoretical physicist husband who plays bridge. The husband is not theoretical, the physics is...

Diana Chien (Second Place)—Diana Chien is currently a university student studying biology, French, and creative writing. She likes algae and fairy tales.

Christa A. Bergerson (Third Place)—Christa A. Bergerson’s poetry has appeared in *Quantum Pulp*, *The Candor*, *Open Ways*, *Faerie Nation Magazine*, and is forthcoming in *Lalitamba Journal* and *Doorways: Journal of Horror and the Paranormal*. She is foremost a defender of Nature and all of her wondrous inhabitants, even those that creep and crawl. In the twilight hours, she enjoys traversing the wilds of Illinois and beyond. She is a Luddite, a bibliophile, and has occasional bouts of Chronophobia.