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CAPITAL REGION POETS HONORED IN ANNUAL BOOK

2011 Edition of Award-Winning Poems from the Smith's Tavern Poet Laureate Contest

VOORHEESVILLE, NY -- Square Circle Press announces the release of its' annual poetry book, *Award-Winning Poems from the Smith's Tavern Poet Laureate Contest*. The 2011 edition features three poems each by Honorable Mention nominee Mark O'Brien, Runner-up Marilyn Paarlberg, and Howard Kogan, the 2011 Poet Laureate. This year's expanded version also includes one poem each from the other area poets who competed in the contest, as well as photographs of all the poets and scenes from the event.

The Smith's Tavern Poet Laureate Contest is considered to be one of the best in the Capital Region. Since 2010, poets have made their annual pilgrimage to Voorheesville to compete for the chance to have their name engraved upon the coveted trophy of William Shakespeare. The trophy is permanently displayed at the popular restaurant known by locals as "Smitty's," famous for its' award-winning pizzas.

The annual contest is organized by the Sunday Four Poets, an open-mic poetry forum devoted to the writing and performance of poetry by participating poets from the region. Based in the Old Songs Community Center in Voorheesville, the group has gathered the fourth Sunday of every month since May 2008 to share their works and to hear a featured poet. Both the forum and the contest are open to any interested poets. The organizers of both the forum and the contest are Dennis Sullivan, Michael Burke, and Edie Abrams, all well-known in the Capital Region for their enthusiastic support of poetry. The third annual Poet Laureate Contest will be held at Smith's Tavern on April 22, 2012. Details about the contest will be announced in March.

Square Circle Press, which is celebrating its' fifth anniversary in 2011, focuses its catalog on the history and culture of upstate New York. In addition to its traditional publishing imprint, the independent press also provides book-coaching and other services to help authors self-publish their books. The company also collaborates with local history organizations to create fundraiser books or other products, and presents a wide range of related merchandise on its' web site.

Both annual editions of *Award-Winning Poems from the Smith's Tavern Poet Laureate Contest* are available online at the Square Circle Press web site, as well as more popular online venues such as Amazon.com. Local libraries, bookstores and other retail outlets can obtain the book through their usual distribution channels, or by contacting Square Circle Press. For more information about how and where to purchase this book, or other titles, products and services available from Square Circle Press, visit the publisher's web site at www.SquareCirclePress.com.

BOOK INFORMATION

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