

## ***Morro Bay Estuary Poetry Contest—A National Treasure in Words***



### **Morro Bay Estuary Poetry Contest—A National Treasure In Words**

#### **Official Rules**

**ELIGIBILITY:** The Morro Bay Estuary Poetry Contest—A National Treasure in Words is presented by the Morro Bay National Estuary Program (Estuary Program) to celebrate its 20th is open to youth, ages 12 through 17, and adults 18 years of age or older at the time of entry. Employees and members of the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay and their immediate families are not eligible to participate or win. The Estuary Program reserves the right to verify all eligibility requirements. All submissions will be considered for publication in the Estuary Program’s annual report, and may appear on the Estuary Program website or in other Estuary Program publications. Entrants retain copyright of their individual poems.

Each entry must be written in English and follow the official rules to be eligible for judging. Rules for each category follow:

**Estuarine Seventeen:** All entries must follow the haiku form: a three-line poem with a total of seventeen syllables, written with a 5/7/5 syllable count. For more information on the haiku form, visit <http://www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/5782>. Poems must use the theme “Morro Bay estuary.” Additionally, all poems entered must be written on after January 1, 2015, and must be unpublished as of the date of entry.

**Free Flowing:** Entries in this category should be written in free verse, and should contain no more than 45 lines long, including any blank lines between stanzas. Poems must use the theme “Morro Bay estuary.” Additionally, all poems entered must be written on after January 1, 2015, and must be unpublished as of the date of entry.

**CONTEST TIMELINE:** Deadline for entries is 5 p.m. on May 15, 2015. Winners will be announced on June 1, 2015. Celebratory reading will be held at Coalesce Bookstore (845 Main St, Morro Bay, CA 93442) on June 19, 2015, at 7 p.m.

**HOW TO ENTER:** Send entries by e-mail to [rpass@mbnep.org](mailto:rpass@mbnep.org) with the email subject line “Poetry Contest.” Poems should be typed in an easy-to-read 12-point font (e.g., Times New Roman, Arial, etc. Please no cursive or fancy fonts.) **All entries must be received by May 15, 2015, at 5 p.m. (PDT).** Submissions received after this date and time will not be considered. No mailed or hard copy entries will be eligible for the contest. Each entry (up to three per entrant) must be attached to the email in **Word format (.doc or .docx file type) or PDF format (.pdf file type).**

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### **In the body of the email, please include:**

1. The author's full first and last name as it should appear in publication.
2. Contact information, including: email, phone number, and mailing address.
  - Youth entries should include the **author's age, grade level, current school**, and the **full name and contact information of the parent or guardian** who is giving permission for the youth to enter the contest.
  - Adults should include the **author's city of residence**.
3. The category or categories the author is entering. Category choices:
  - Youth Estuarine Seventeen (ages 12 through 17)
  - Youth Free Flowing (ages 12 through 17)
  - Adult Estuarine Seventeen (age 18 and up)
  - Adult Free Flowing (age 18 and up)

By entering, each entrant represents that the poems they submit are their own original creations, that they have not been copied from others, and that they do not violate the rights of any other person or entity. Any intellectual property infringement, misuse, or plagiarism of another person's work in any form or state will result in immediate disqualification and forfeiture of eligibility to receive all awards, recognition, and prizes.

**CONTEST THEME:** Morro Bay Estuary

**FEES:** There are no fees to enter Morro Bay Estuary Poetry Contest—A National Treasure in Words. No purchase necessary.

**PRIZES:** One winner will be selected from each category (see "How to Enter" for the categories). Each winner will receive a gift basket and Certificate of Participation. The winning poems from each category will be published in the Estuary Program's annual report, on the Estuary Program's website, and in social media messages. One runner up from each category will receive a Certificate of Participation, and their selected poem will be included on the Estuary Program website and in social media messages.

All prize details are at the sole discretion of the Estuary Program. No substitution, cash equivalent or transfer of prizes permitted by winners. The Estuary Program reserves the right to substitute a prize (or portion thereof) of comparable or greater value, at its sole discretion. Prizes are awarded "as is" with no warranty or guarantee, either express or implied by the Estuary Program.

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**JUDGING CRITERIA:** Each eligible entry will be reviewed equally based on the following criteria:

- Adherence to theme “Morro Bay Estuary”
- Imagery
- Creativity
- Originality
- Adherence to form: entries for the Estuarine Seventeen categories will be judged on adherence to the haiku form. Entries for the Free Flowing category will be judged on adherence to the 45-line length limit described above.

Judges will give a score of 1–4 points for each of the criteria, 1 point being the lowest score and 4 points being the highest. The maximum number of points possible for all entries is 20. The entrant who submitted the entry that receives the highest score in each category (see “How to Enter” for details), as determined by the scores awarded by the Judges, will be the winner. If there is a tie, the Estuary Program reserves the right to break the tie with a judging panel vote. There will be one winner from each category and one runner up in each category.

**JUDGES:** The panel of volunteer judges includes Youssef Alaoui, Rob Seitz, Kevin Patrick Sullivan, and Rachel Pass (the Morro Bay National Estuary Program representative).

**Youssef Alaoui** is a Moroccan Latino, born in California. He has lived overlooking Estero Bay for the past five years. Life by the ocean inspired him to publish a collection of dark romantic poems called *Death At Sea* and a nineteenth century adventure novel called *The Blue Demon*. Youssef has an MFA in Poetics from New College of California. There, he studied classical Arabic, Spanish Baroque and Contemporary Moroccan poetry. His family and heritage are an endless source of inspiration for his varied, dark, spiritual, and carnal writings. Find out more at [youssefalaoui.tumblr.com](http://youssefalaoui.tumblr.com)

**Rob Seitz** began writing poetry while working aboard his grandfather’s commercial salmon fishing boat on The Cook Inlet in Alaska. Since then, he has participated in The Fisherpoets Gathering in Astoria Oregon for seventeen years, and read at The Working Waterfront Festival in New Bedford, Mass. He has published one book of poetry, *2.5 gpf*, and now resides in Los Osos, CA

**Kevin Patrick Sullivan** is the author of several artist books created with his wife (the artist/poet Patti Sullivan), chapbooks and three books of poetry, *First Sight*, from Mille Grazie Press, *The Space Between Things*, DeerTree Press (made possible by an Art Inspires Individual Artist Grant from Arts Obispo) and *Under Such Brilliance*, Word Palace Press. He has also been published in magazines and journals, in print, and on line. He was the guest editor for *CAFE SOLO* Vol. 1 & 2 and editor with his wife Patti of the anthology, *CORNERS OF THE MOUTH A CELEBRATION OF THIRTY YEARS AT THE ANNUAL SAN LUIS OBISPO POETRY FESTIVAL*. Kevin is a past Poet Laureate for the City of San Luis Obispo and the Co-Founder and Curator for the Annual San Luis Obispo Poetry Festival and *Corners of the Mouth*, a monthly reading series held at Linnaea’s Café since 1984. He is also the Founder/Curator for Poetry at the Steynberg in San Luis Obispo and with Youssef Alaoui is

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the County Organizer of the annual 100 Thousand Poets & Musicians for Change event every September since 2011.

**Rachel Pass** is the Communications & Outreach Coordinator for the Morro Bay National Estuary Program. She works with community members, partners, and other stakeholders to raise awareness of the Estuary Program's mission, and to encourage participation in restoration and preservation efforts. Rachel brings a background in writing, publishing, and teaching to her role. She loves to read and write poetry, and can often be found watching wildlife on the bay or hiking along the coast.

**WINNER NOTIFICATION:** Winners will be contacted by the Estuary Program and announced in a news release on June 1, 2015. The authors' names and winning entries will be printed in the Estuary Program's annual report, and featured on the Estuary Program's website and social media channels.

**USE OF ENTRY:** By submitting an entry, entrant grants the Estuary Program and their designees an irrevocable, royalty-free, non-exclusive, worldwide perpetual license to use the entry and his/her name, city and state of residence for credit purposes in Estuary Program's online galleries, without further compensation, notification or permission, unless prohibited by law. In addition, each winner grants to the Estuary Program and their designees an irrevocable, royalty-free, non-exclusive, worldwide perpetual license to use and distribute the entry (as submitted, or as cropped by the Estuary Program), and his/her name, city and state of residence for credit purposes, in any and all media now or hereafter known, for purposes of promotion of this Contest and other Estuary Program contests and/or for purposes of advertising and promoting the Estuary Program and, except as otherwise stated herein, without further compensation, notification or permission, unless prohibited by law. Entrants retain copyright of their individual poems.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** In no event will the Estuary Program be responsible for any damages or losses arising out of access to and use of the websites or the downloading from and/or printing material downloaded from said site. The Estuary Program is not responsible for lost, late, incomplete, or misdirected entries.