

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PLACER COUNTY WINNER ADVANCES TO STATE FINALS

The Arts Council of Placer County (ACPC) hosted its annual **Poetry Out Loud Competition for Placer County on February 18, 2023**. The competition was held at **Granite Bay High School** in the campus' Theatre at 10:00 am -12:30 pm. Participating high-schools in the competition were: Granite Bay High and John Adams. Lead instructors assisting with organizing the student competitors were: Julie Francesconi, of Granite Bay High and Karin Anderson, representing John Adams. The exciting event brought out a talented group of 6 students to recite poems before an intimate audience of friends, family and supporters. **The competing students were: Sarah Baker, Levi Hoover, Kaleia Norris, Elizabeth Polishchuk, Madylin Webster and Sarah Yee.** The students recited the following poems: *Jabberwocky, The Wooden Toy, No, I Wasn't Meant to Love and Be Loved, The Heaven of Animals, The More Loving One, and The Legend.*

ACPC Board Member and Poetry Out Loud Coordinator, Delgreta Brown, assembled a panel of seven Judges for the competition. The volunteer Judges came from a variety of backgrounds in the Literary and Performing Arts. A few areas of expertise from the Judges included: published Poets, Journalists, literary magazine Editors, Musicians, Spoken Word Artists, Theatre Actors and Writers. **The esteemed Judges were: Raquel Ruiz, J. Ross Parelli, Isaac "Ike" Torres, Omari Tau, Claire White, Zuzu Schmitke and Sara Knudson.** Youth literary publisher, 916Ink provided support for the event by lending two Judges--Knudson and Schmitke to assist with the competition. The Sacramento-based nonprofit literary arts group was thrilled to send the two representatives to lend their publishing expertise for Poetry Out Loud.

ACPC Congratulates all students for competing in Poetry Out Loud! The results of the competition were: **Sarah Baker, 2nd Place**, with

Jabberwocky and **Madilyn Webster, 3rd Place, with *The More Loving One***. However, ultimately, it was student **Sarah Yee** who the Judges thought gave the most outstanding recitation and performance. Yee emerged victorious as the **1st Place Winner of Poetry Out Loud** with her dramatic recitation and compelling presentation of *The Legend*. **Sarah Yee will advance to the State Finals in the Poetry Out Loud Competition** representing Placer County. State competition will be held in a live virtual format on **March 19, 2023 at 5:00 pm - 6:30pm**. The winner of the **State Finals** will go onward to compete at National Finals, which will be held In-person in **Washington, DC on May 8-10, 2023**.

We are cheering for Sarah Yee! And, hope to see her succeed through to the National Finals!

Read judges bios and more: placerarts.org/poetry-out-loud

View recitations on YouTube:



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