

PEARL BROS

Real Big Biz

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Beatrice lives in a World of Poetry

By LISA TALLYN
Staff Reporter



BEATRICE
LARSEN

Writing poetry is second nature to Beatrice Larsen because she thinks in rhymes.

"When I sit down to write a poem, the words come out quickly and easily," said Larsen. "Sometimes writing a poem takes me 15 minutes."

Larsen, 68, recently received the Golden Poet Award from the U.S.-based organization, World of Poetry. The award was presented at the fifth annual World of Poetry convention in Washington, D.C.

She received the award for a poem she wrote in memory of her neighbor Alfred Thompson, "Friend and Neighbor." She originally gave the poem to

Thompson's widow on the one-year anniversary of his death.

Another of Larsen's poems, "Justifiable Indignation," placed in the top 10 among 1 million entries in the organization's Poet Laureate Award.

World of Poetry is reportedly the largest organization of poets in the world, with more than 1 million members worldwide.

Larsen has been a member for the past four years.

This is the second time she has won the Golden Poet Award. She won last year with her poem "Friendly Advice."

In past contests she has received four honorable mentions.

Larsen says she has enjoyed writing poetry all of her life.

"It has only been since I retired that I

decided to go into it in a serious way."

She says poetry provides her with a way to express herself when she can't find another way.

Prior to her retirement, Larsen worked in the fashion business for 22 years as a fashion buyer for several women's stores.

Throughout her life she would write poems to friends and family on a broad range of topics.

"I try to speak to the general public, some poets use words the average man can't decipher. I don't do that."

She says her poetry is straightforward because she doesn't use imagery.

Larsen's poem "Friend and Neighbor" will be included in an anthology of poetry to be published by World of Poetry.

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LARSEN, Beatrice