

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

Maragret S. Mullins - *Jarrettsville, MD*

### **Chessmen**

Each day at noon, barring rain or snow,  
the two men meet and take their seats  
in the small chess park near the cathedraL  
One comes in suit and tie with sandwiches  
and Cokes. The other, in camouflage pants  
and scruffy black dress shoes with no socks,  
pulls a small bag of chessmen from his pocket.  
Sometimes they start a new game. More often  
one unfolds a small scrap of paper with positions  
depicted, and they pick up where they left off last.  
For a hour they quietly match wits, lean back  
to enjoy a capture, groan softly at a loss  
and savor the matched proficiency at this game  
that neither has found elsewhere.  
When the hour is up, they pack it all in, smile  
and shake hands. One goes back to his high corner office,  
the other back to his box under the bridge.