

## Showcase Awards

### 1. Grand Showcase Award - 3 Prizes (\$200/\$100/\$50)

Short story or essay

Sponsor: Ozark Creative Writers Board of Directors.

|                 |  |                   |
|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| 3 HM            | The Freshening                         | Douglas Osgood    |
| 2 HM            | The Diet Guru                          | Randy Lancaster   |
| 1 HM            | Star Cruiser Athena and the Ant People | Margarite Stever  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Raised on Diamonds                     | Gary Rodgers      |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Ryke's Law                             | Rhonda Harvey     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Mark of Vah                            | Yvonne Tillapaugh |

### 2. Oxbow Award in Memory of Dusty & Pat Richards - 3 Prizes (\$200/\$100/\$50)

Western short story

Sponsor: Ozark Creative Writers Board of Directors

|                 |                                |                         |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 HM            | The Bounty Hunter's Redemption | Gary Rodgers            |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Whatever it Takes              | Billie Holladay Skelley |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | A Will to Resist               | Kimberly Vernon         |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Love for the Spinster          | Margarite Stever        |

### 3. Founding Member Award in Memory of Arkansas Poet Laureate Peggy Vining - 1 Prize (\$100)

- Poem about change, any style. Limit: 24 lines.
- Sponsor: Ozark Creative Writers Board of Directors.

|                 |                            |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 3 HM            | The Remains                | Donna Jones          |
| 2 HM            | The Beast                  | Arleta Kersh         |
| 1 HM            | Widow's Walk               | Elizabeth McCay      |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Green and Quieting Seasons | Julie McNeely-Kirwan |

### 4. Mike Willis Inspiration Award - 1 Prize (\$100)

- An inspirational short story about sibling rivalry.
- Sponsor: Chrissy Willis in memory of her late husband, Mike Willis

|                 |                   |                |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 HM            | A Brother in Need | Rickey Pittman |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | The Lunch Box     | Leslie Gullo   |

### 5. Published Newspaper Column/Blog Award -1 Prize (\$50)

- Best opinion essay/column published in a newspaper, news outlet, or blog.
- Sponsor: Max McCoy

|                 |                                      |                 |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 3HM             | Lessons From Granny's Kitchen        | Kimberly Vernon |
| 2HM             | Five Things I Should Never Have Done | JC Crumpton     |
| 1HM             | How I Got to Rebuild National Park   | K.S. Brixey     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Take a Side                          | Melanie Morton  |

# Grand Conference Awards- 3 Prizes

## (\$50/\$30/\$20)

### 6. Search for Excellence Award

- Limit: 2500 words.
- Sponsor: Leon Combs

|                 |   |                   |
|-----------------|---|-------------------|
| 3 HM            | Behind the Iron Gates and Manicured Lawns | JC Crumpton       |
| 2 HM            | Be The Light                              | Melanie Morton    |
| 1 HM            | Making Memories                           | Schyrllet Cameron |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Mayflies                                  | Ellen Carpenter   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Visiting Christmas                        | Susan Joslyn      |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Struggles of the Heart                    | Joy Keeney        |

### 7. Native American Short Story Award

- Short story with a Native American theme.
- Sponsor: Clouse Literary Arts and Theater

|                 |                                 |                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 3 HM            | The Flower Among the Tears      | Michael Koch    |
| 2 HM            | Old Coins                       | Terry Alexander |
| 1 HM            | A Cherokee Gathering            | Rhonda Harvey   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Look Back Fight                 | Michael Lee     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Death in the Little Winter Moon | Rickey Pittman  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Serpent and Shaman              | Don Money       |

### 8. Flash Fiction

- Must have a beginning, middle, and end. Limit: 99 words.
- Sponsor: David Kirkland

|                 |                    |                         |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 HM            | The Whiskey Bottle | Leslie Gullo            |
| 2 HM            | Bruises Tell All   | Candy Meier             |
| 1 HM            | Delta Dreams       | Bonnie Best             |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Spider             | Wanita Humphrey         |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Why Not?           | Billie Holladay Skelley |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Worthwhile Humans  | Meg Dendler             |

**9. Haiku Award**

- Limit: Traditional 5-7-5 syllables
- Sponsor: David Kirkland

|                 |                      |                         |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 HM            | Scitter              | Tammy Parra             |
| 2 HM            | Night                | Jennifer Schroeder      |
| 1 HM            | Dirt Devil's Dancing | Gary Rodgers            |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Silver Rain Droplets | Billie Holladay Skelley |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | The Shore            | Julie McNeely Kirwan    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | A Man with One Shoe  | Carole Avila            |

**10. A Fish Out of Water Tale**

- A short story that includes someone or something in unusual surroundings.
- Sponsor: Micki Fuhrman

|                 |                         |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 HM            | Hinton's Catscapade     | Yvonne Tillapaugh       |
| 2 HM            | Heaven's Gate           | Donna Welch Jones       |
| 1 HM            | Hot Dog Stand           | Leslie Gullo            |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Uninvited Guest         | Billie Holladay Skelley |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Enlightenment           | Jennifer Speer          |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | I would rather not tell | Sandra Robbins          |

**11. Birthday Party Romance Contest**

- While at a painting party for a friend's birthday, the protagonist feels an immediate, undeniable connection with the artist in charge.
- Sponsor: Ozark Romance Authors, Springfield, MO

|                 |                              |                |
|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 HM            | Rainbow in My Heart          | Rickey Pittman |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | The Art of Falling In Love   | Rhonda Harvey  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | The Art of Meeting Mr. Right | Kathy Gan      |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Sunflowers & Wheat Fields    | Candy Meier    |

**12. "Steamy" Romance Contest**

- Write a steamy romance. Must use the words escape and delicious.
- Sponsor: Delicious Escape Publications

|                 |                                |                  |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | A Kiss With Secrets            | Rickey Pittman   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Fantasy Live                   | Arleta Kersh     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Sylvia's Second Chance at Love | Margarite Stever |

**13. Sleuths' Ink Contest**

- A vigilante in Cancun. Must include a crime.
- Sponsor: Sleuths' Ink, Springfield, Mo

|                 |                  |                    |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 HM            | Sunset in Cancun | Kathy Gan          |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | The Purse        | Leslie Gullo       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Robber Baron     | Ellen Carpenter    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | The Timeshare    | Randolph Lancaster |

**14. From Dusk to Dawn**

- Tell a spooky tale of a monster that prowls the night from dusk to dawn.
- Sponsor: Homegrown Books

|                 |                                       |                         |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 HM            | The Only Drink                        | JC Crumpton             |
| 2 HM            | The Wendigo                           | Billie Holladay Skelley |
| 1 HM            | Unwilling Bride of Cut Throat Montana | Rhonda Harvey           |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Nightfire                             | Arleta Kersh            |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Ms. Selma's Coffee and Teas           | Marlon Hayes            |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | The Legend of the Marsh Monster       | Kim Vernon              |

**Conference Awards- 3 Prizes (\$25/\$15/\$10)****15. Goddesses of Poetic License Challenge**

- Write a short story, any genre include all the following words: trajectory, pragmatic, fish, sunflower, and ice cream.
- Sponsor: The Goddesses of Poetic License (Linda Apple, Chrissy Willis & Ruth Weeks)

|                 |                                  |              |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 HM            | Tully's Plot Twist               | Meg Dendler  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Where I Lay With Sweet Billy Ray | Arleta Kersh |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | The Fisherman Hat                | Marlon Hayes |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Canned Christmas Dinner          | Gary Rodgers |

**16. Senior Moments**

- Write a story, any genre, where the protagonist is over 50. Limit: 1500 words.
- Sponsor: Betsy Gray

|                 |                               |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 3 HM            | No Pets, No Plants, No People | Hazel Hart        |
| 2 HM            | Change of Heart               | Donna Welch Jones |
| 1 HM            | Grouch                        | Martha Rodriguez  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Brush Country Cowboy          | Rickey Pittman    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | A Good Day for a Parade       | Kimberly Vernon   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Asters or Ghost Dancers       | Brenda Conway     |

**17. A Scream in the Night**

- A horror short story. Limit: 3000 words.
- Sponsor: Tahlequah Writers

|                 |                          |                 |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 3 HM            | The Zombie Crawl         | Kathy Brown     |
| 2 HM            | Peppermints and Pendants | JC Crumpton     |
| 1 HM            | Lost on Perdido Street   | Rickey Pittman  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Silverwood Asylum        | Joy Keeney      |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Hidden Lake              | Ellen Carpenter |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Specter of Death         | Don Money       |

**18. Tales from the Trip**

- Write about a memorable trip (fact or fiction).
- Sponsor: Coffee and Critique Writers of O'Fallon, MO

|                 |                    |                         |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 HM            | The Whirlybird     | Marlon Hayes            |
| 2 HM            | Dream Come True    | Kimberly Vernon         |
| 1 HM            | A Vacation on Skis | Laura Lewis             |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Once Was Enough    | Billie Holladay Skelley |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Red-Flag Blindness | Russell Gayer           |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | The Island         | Don Money               |

**19. Middle-Grade Fiction for Boys Ages 9-12**

- Write a story that will appeal to boys. Limit: 1500-2500 words.
- Sponsor: Renee LaViness

|                 |                            |                 |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 2 HM            | Before He Was Percy        | Meg Dendler     |
| 1 HM            | Over Imaginators Anonymous | Leslie Gullo    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Is A Werewolf A Pet?       | Anne Sturtevant |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | The Substitute Wizard      | JC Crumpton     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Dirt Road Samurai          | Don Money       |

**20. Historical Romance Contest**

- Historical Romance short story. Limit: 3000 words.
- Sponsors: The Deadline Dames (Joy Keeney & Rhonda Harvey)

|                 |   |                         |
|-----------------|---|-------------------------|
| 2 HM            | Spirit of the Mountain, Protect My Love | Arleta Kersh            |
| 1 HM            | Annie Laurie                            | Rickey Pittman          |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Bondage                                 | Jennifer Speer          |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Just Come Home                          | Billie Holladay Skelley |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Alice's Law                             | Margarite Stever        |

**21. Hometown Nostalgia Column**

- Write a nostalgic article about the Ozarks that is suitable for a newspaper column.
- Sponsor: Lonnie Whitaker

|                 |   |                         |
|-----------------|---|-------------------------|
| 2 HM            | Ozark Folk Magic: It is Still Practiced Today | R.T. Coleman            |
| 1 HM            | Interview With A Legend, A True Cowboy        | Joy Keeney              |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | What's In a Nickname, By Golly                | Jude Gaillot            |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Missouri's Castle: Past Glory-Present Purpose | Wanita Humphry          |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Way Down Yonder: Pawpaws                      | Billie Holladay Skelley |

**22. Funeral Mystery**

- While attending a funeral you notice someone secreting a piece of paper into the coffin.
- Sponsor: Marcia Gaye

|                 |                              |                      |
|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 2 HM            | Unsung Hero                  | Don Money            |
| 1 HM            | The Secret Goes with You     | JC Crumpton          |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Oops!                        | Arleta Kersh         |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | I'm Sorry                    | Randy Lancaster      |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | The Many Wives of Johnny Nix | Julie McNeely-Kirwan |

**23. Space Journey**

- Science fiction genre in the style of 50's Sci-Fi movies. Limit: 2000 words.
- Sponsor: Tahlequah Writers

|                 |                              |                      |
|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 3 HM            | Chief Carter: Marooned       | JC Crumpton          |
| 2 HM            | Blood Suckers from Space     | Rhonda Harvey        |
| 1 HM            | A Short Visit to New Kowloon | Julie McNeely-Kirwan |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | The Dragon's Palidin         | Margarite Stever     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | You Must Remember This       | R.T. Coleman         |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Eaux Sombres Lake            | Candy Meier          |

**24. Winston's Quotable Quote Blog**

- Choose a favorite quote and blog about it. Limit: 500 words.
- Sponsor: Linda Apple

|                 |                           |                      |
|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 3 HM            | The Moving Finger Wrote   | JC Crumpton          |
| 2 HM            | Lush Events-Event Planner | Kathy Gan            |
| 1 HM            | Sanctuary                 | Don Money            |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Dreams                    | Tony Franklin        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | You Can or You Can't      | Gary Rodgers         |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Art and Enthusiasm        | Julie McNeely-Kirwan |

**25. Travel Article**

- Write it as if you were sending it to a reputable magazine.
- Sponsor: Johnny D. Boggs

|                 |   |                            |
|-----------------|---|----------------------------|
| 3 HM            | Silverton Colorado                                    | Rhonda Harvey              |
| 2 HM            | Sail Away Down the Mighty Mississippi                 | Billie Holladay<br>Skelley |
| 1 HM            | No Place Like Home: Never Give Up on Your Dreams      | Ruth Weeks                 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Where The Pavement Ends                               | Wanita Humphrey            |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | The Arkansas Air and Military Museum, Worth The Drive | Margarite Stever           |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | A Fifty Year Old Dream                                | Kimberly Vernon            |

**26. Things That Go Bump In The Night!**

- Paranormal short story (No Horror). Limit: 3000 words.
- Sponsor: Ruth Weeks

|                 |                |              |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 HM            | Mr. Bow Tie    | Tammy Parra  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | The Memory Box | Joy Kenney   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Give Me Roses  | Marlon Hayes |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Wunderkammer   | Don Money    |

**27. Give Us the Best of Friends**

- Humorous short story, any genre, about best friends on a cross-country trip
- Sponsors: Joni Cogbill and Betsy Gray

|                 |                      |                   |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 HM            | Red River Odyssey    | Rickey Pittman    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Magic Beans          | Donna Welch Jones |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Grand Canyon or Bust | Kimberly Vernon   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | The Ice Cream Boys   | Marlon Hayes      |

**28. My Favorite Day in Nature**

- Free Verse Poem
- Sponsor: Linda Sartin in memory of her late husband, Gary

|                 |                                    |                       |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 HM            | What A Glorious Time               | Russell Gayer         |
| 2 HM            | Cottonwood Tree                    | Jennifer Schroeder    |
| 1 HM            | Maple Tree Swing                   | Marcia Gaye           |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | September in North Missouri        | Laura Redford (Lewis) |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | What Was Once                      | Julie McNeely-Kirwan  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Yesterday, Today or Maybe Tomorrow | Wanita Humphrey       |

**29. Best First Paragraph**

- Hook us with your best first paragraph from a novel or short story.
- Sponsors: Margarite Stever and Bonnie Tesh

|                 |                     |                |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Bedtime Story       | Tammy Parra    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Chino Rose          | Angie Anderson |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | New Bride Goes West | Candy Meier    |

**30. A Drop In The Bucket**

- A Short Story about checking off an item from your bucket list (can be fact or fiction).
- Sponsor: Little Red Writing Hood

|                 |                              |                    |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2 HM            | My Bucket List Revenge       | Rickey Pittman     |
| 1 HM            | Found                        | Donna Welch Jones  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Once in a Lifetime Encounter | Joy Keeney         |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Niagara Falls                | Leslie Gullo       |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | The Last Time                | Randolph Lancaster |

**31. CW Indie Press Children's Book Award**

- Children's Book suitable for ages 3-7.
- Sponsor: CW Indie Press

|                 |                            |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 3hm             | Follow Me, Moon, Follow Me | Brenda Conway        |
| 2hm             | Braydon Saves Christmas    | Kimberly Vernon      |
| 1hm             | I Dance                    | Christina Williamson |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Samantha's Escape          | Linda Mai            |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Bluebonnet Fairy           | Meg Dendler          |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Grandma's Apron            | Tina Howlett         |

