

2016 Writers-Editors Network International Writing Competition - WINNERS (HM = Honorable Mention)

POETRY

1st Place - **Morgan Baylog Finn**, New Hartford, CT – “To Mother, Age 76, As She Considers Sky-Diving – Delightful and insightful, this free verse provides a story in moving pictures that uplift.

2nd Place - **Sally Clark**, Fredericksburg, TX – “Crop Rotation” – With fresh phrasing and strong visuals, this free verse poem will speak to most readers – and all of us who have had to adapt to changing lifestyles.

3rd Place - **Olivia Norem**, Tampa, FL – “Televised Side Effects” – Readers will not only identify with this humorous social commentary, they’ve most likely lived it.

1st HM - **Louise Moses**, Indian Rocks Beach, FL – “Chocolate Tastes Better in Paris” – Humor, sensual phrasing, and imagery pour into this delectable free verse.

2nd HM - **Joyce Shiver**, Crystal River, FL – “The Old Depot” – True to form, this sonnet evokes emotion and a clear scene from the past before ending on a strong note.

3rd HM - **Catherine Moran**, Little Rock, AR – “Stranded” – The sign in this Shakespearian sonnet depicts a poignant sign of our times.

4th HM - **Sally Clark**, Fredericksburg, TX – “Barking and Clawing Against a Sensible Leash” – This story in free verse has a conversational tone, situations people can identify with, and insightful phrasing.

5th HM - **Joyce Shiver**, Crystal River, FL – “Music of the Pipes” – As the title indicates, this sonnet has musicality and also visual appeal.

NOTABLES (alphabetical by author)

Jan Evans, Toccoa, GA – “Messiah”

Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL – “Ghostly Ship”

MOST PROMISING (will receive a critique)

Sally Clark, Fredericksburg, TX – “How to Make it Rain” – This free verse has strong reader identification and humor to deal with a common frustration.

NONFICTION

1st Place - **Paul Fein**, Agawam, MA – “Let’s Give Djokovic Some Love” (article) – There’s a good reason why this writer has been singled out before (the judge recognizes the style from previous years). His (or her) stories are well written and creative with excellent active verbs and adjectives. The stories flow well, and each transition is smoothly done. Strong lead sentences/paragraph draw the reader into the story. Good job.

2nd Place - **Paul Fein**, Agawam, MA – “Surprises, Demises, and Reprises at the US Open” (article) – See #1 comments.

3rd Place - **Scott Hubbartt**, Schertz, TX – “The Mail Run” (article) – Overall, this was a good story and with a needed edit and rewrite, it could be a very good story.

HM - **Alessandra Bianchi**, Marblehead, MA – “Creature Comforts: To Please Spouse, Be Catty” (article) – While needing editing, a rewrite and re-formatting, the submission was cleverly written. The writer shows promise.

MOST PROMISING (will receive a critique)

Joyce Lapin, Simsbury, CT – “If You Could Ride on an Asteroid...” (children’s picture book) This children’s nonfiction book displays a good premise but is in need of being more concise and edited. More to come in a critique.

FICTION

1st Place - **Carol MacAllister**, Boqueron, PR – “Wind at My Back,” Chapter One (novel) – This novel shows promise for publication, judging by the outstanding delivery of chapter one. Characters are well formed. Their dialogue is crisp, relevant and to the point, carrying the plot forward with ease and sensibility. The author has given careful thought to plotting, structure, clarity and word choices. The reader is eager to read more. Good job!

2nd Place - **Randi Lynn Mrvos**, Lexington, KY – “Rosie and the Absolutely, Positively Extraordinary Day (children’s picture book story) – What a clever, fun and well-written children's picture book story. It's easy to visualize what illustrations could accompany this imaginative story, which could easily make publication.

3rd Place - **Jan Evans**, Toccoa, GA – “The No-No's Say Yes” (children’s story) – It was a tough choice between #2 and #3, as “The No-No's Say Yes” is also cleverly written. This will make a fun children's book, while it also has a creative way to send a subtle and positive message to kids. Worthy of being published.

1st HM - **Jeff Boyle**, Ormond Beach, FL – “Twenty-Two” (short story) – Needing some fine tuning, this is a powerful and well-written short story. Projects a punch.

2nd HM - **Jan Evans**, Toccoa, GA – “One Last Time” (short story) – This short story shows promise, especially with a bit of editing. For example, the writer uses the word Abraham too frequently when the word "he" would suffice.

MOST PROMISING (will receive a critique)

Linda Newman, San Mateo, CA – “Coma” (mystery short story) – The storyline and characters are well done. The manuscript needs some tweaking. The judge will elaborate in a short critique.