



a community of writers

ANNUAL WRITING CONTESTS Short Stories, Both True and Imagined & The Elizabeth Bolton Poetry Contest

Deadline for both contests: August 15, 2012 (postmarked).

All winners are invited to read from their entries at 2012 OWC Presents: The Winners in the fall.

Short stories, Both True and Imagined Final Judge: to be announced	The Elizabeth Bolton Poetry Contest Final Judge: to be announced.
<p style="text-align: center;">Short Story (both fiction and nonfiction) Awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ First: \$200, Second: \$100, Third: \$50, First Honorable Mention Awarded a Certificate of Achievement. ▶ Additional Honorable Mentions credited in <i>OWC Colonygram</i> and on OWC website. ▶ First place winners are featured on the cover of the <i>Colonygram</i>. All winners are listed in the <i>Colonygram</i> and the OWC website. ▶ Winners are invited to read from their winning entry at the awards ceremony. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Poetry Awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ First: \$100, Second: \$50, Third: \$25 ▶ First, Second, and Third prize poems will be published in <i>OWC Colonygram</i>. All winners are listed in the <i>Colonygram</i> and the OWC website. ▶ Winners are invited to read their winning entry at the awards ceremony.
<p style="text-align: center;">Short Story Contest Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Original, unpublished short story, fiction or nonfiction. ▶ Word limit: 2500 maximum. ▶ Fee per entry: \$10 (OWC members), \$15 (non-members). \$10 <i>optional</i> fee for judges' constructive critiques. ▶ Standard manuscript format (double-spaced, one-inch margins, 12pt Courier or Times New Roman font). ▶ Title, word count, and category (fiction, nonfiction) on first page. ▶ <u>No author name on story</u>. This is an anonymous contest. ▶ Multiple entries are permitted. ▶ One entry per submission packet. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Poetry Contest Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Up to three poems per entry, any form or style, original and unpublished. ▶ Fee per entry: \$10 (OWC members), \$15 (non-members). ▶ <u>No author name on poems</u>. This is an anonymous contest. ▶ Multiple entries are permitted. ▶ One entry (up to three poems) per submission packet.
<p style="text-align: center;">Short Story Submission Packet Must Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Four stapled copies of one entry. (Please keep originals; entries will not be returned.) ▶ One business envelope, labeled fiction or nonfiction, with the following inside: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Check for entry fee. (May include optional critique fee.) ▶ 3x5 card (no odd-sized cards, please) with 1. category (fiction or nonfiction); 2. entry title; 3. name, address, phone, email; 4. OWC member or non-member status; 5. how you heard about this contest (online, word-of-mouth, etc.); 6. critique request if you included the optional critique fee. ▶ SASP (self-addressed stamped postcard for notice of receipt — and your peace of mind). ▶ SASE (#10 self-addressed stamped envelope if you requested judges' constructive critique (mailed in early October). 	<p style="text-align: center;">Poetry Submission Packet Must Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Two copies of each poem. (Please keep originals; entries will not be returned.) ▶ One business envelope with the following inside: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Check for entry fee. ▶ 3x5 card (no odd-sized cards, please) with 1. name, address, phone, email; 2. poem titles; 3. how you heard about this contest (online, word-of-mouth, etc.) 4. OWC member or non-member status. ▶ SASP (self-addressed stamped postcard for notice of receipt — and your peace of mind).
<p>Mailing address for short stories: OWC Contest, C. Lill Ahrens, 306 NW 32nd St., Corvallis OR 97330</p>	<p>Mailing address for poetry: OWC Contest, Judy Masee, 3415 SE Steele St., Portland OR 97202</p>

**Judging criteria for fiction and nonfiction short stories only,
not necessarily in order of importance:**

- ▶ Plot (hook, complications, climax, satisfying resolution);
- ▶ Reader's emotional response (e.g., chuckle, sadness);
- ▶ Theme (what your story is about beyond the plot — fear/courage, gain/loss);
- ▶ Mechanics (grammar, point of view, showing vs. telling, etc.);
- ▶ Sensory detail;
- ▶ Originality;
- ▶ Depth of character and character arc;
- ▶ Tension;
- ▶ Adherence to contest director's nit-picky contest rules.

Contest Inquiries:

- ▶ Direct short story inquiries to: OWC Contest Director, C. Lill Ahrens, at cclill@comcast.net.
- ▶ Direct poetry inquiries to OWC Poetry Coordinator, Juday Masee, at jtmasee@comcast.net.