



2014
**Royal Palm
Literary Awards**



PUBLISHED BOOK OF THE YEAR

***Deadly Drifts* by M. W. Gordon**
(Thriller/Suspense)

Maxwell Hunt was a Florida law professor and is in a federal protection program as fly fishing guide Macduff Brooks, living in Montana and Florida. He cannot escape his foreign assailants, who doubt that he died. A client is killed on his drift boat, and his cabin is rigged with bombs.

He taught international law for 42 years, traveling extensively for the State Department. Changing focus, he stopped teaching and become a fly fishing guide dividing his time between Florida and Montana. He works with Project Healing Waters taking combat wounded disabled vets fly fishing.

PRE-PUBLISHED BOOK OF THE YEAR

***Sacred Ashes* by Lloyd R. Agee (Mainstream/Literary)**

This is a generational conflict between youthful idealisms's blind pursuit of justice versus an older generation more concerned with status and legacy.

His short fiction has appeared in several regional publications in the Midwest including Indiana University's Creative Writing Publication

THE DAHRIS CLAIR MEMORIAL AWARD

***The Silver Bullet* by Jennie Jarvis (Screen Play)**

The best superhero in a city full of superheroes yearns to be a regular guy, but a new supervillain threatens to destroy everyone he loves if he doesn't stop him.

Jennie Jarvis, a co-owner of 5writers.com, has appeared in Writer's Digest Magazine and The Florida Writer. She teaches screen writing at Full Sail University and has an MFA in Creative Writing.

BOOK-LENGTH FICTION

Fantasy (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Eternal Night* by Jade Kerrion.** A horror story set in an eighteenth century domed city transforms into a post-apocalyptic fantasy where technology shrouds the truth. Could humanity's demons actually be its saviors?

SECOND PLACE

***Children of Path The Kell Stone Prophecy Book One* by Dana Trantham.** A boy on the run. A young woman torn between power and morality. A felid who must die to live. Who will wield the kell stone and rule the Ruud?

Fantasy (Pre-Published)

FIRST PLACE

***The Jaguar Key The Eternals: Book One* by Kate Maier writing as Katherine Starbird.** Preoccupied with evading a sadistic stalker, Rosamond the Jaguar Goddess becomes entangled with feuding Eternals in a web of revenge that can only end in death. Will it be hers?

SECOND PLACE

***Out of the Ashes* by Jennie Jarvis.** A phoenix in human form attempts to escape a monster from her past in order to reconnect with a beloved friend. The past, however, isn't ready to let her go.

THIRD PLACE

***Birds of a Feather* by Evergreen Lee.** Beauty is a witch, but doesn't know it, and the beast was never human.

General (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Baseball's Archives* by Jack L. Hayes.** This book is filled with interesting and exciting stories from the past. Back then, the game was real, tough and personal. It was the profoundly American pastime!

SECOND PLACE

***Alborada: a poetic memoir across cultures* by Nylda Dieppa.** Autobiographical collection of narrative and lyrical poems telling a story of familial love, culture shock, divorce, and the emotional and spiritual healing symbolized by the dawn of a new day.

General (Pre-Published)

FIRST PLACE

***BABE* by Elle Thornton.** Seventeen year-old Edna Montague's childhood memories put on flesh and darken as she searches for her cousin Babe, who vanished six years earlier from Live Oak Lodge on the Florida coast.

Historical Fiction (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***SHARAVOGUE* by Nancy Blanton.** In 1649, an Irish barmaid vows revenge against General Oliver Cromwell for destroying her village, but is swept away to a West Indies plantation and must fight her way back.

Historical Fiction (Published)

SECOND PLACE

***Glimpse of Sunlight* by Leona D. Bodie and GE Gardiner.** Why did Jonathan Dickinson leave Port Royal, Jamaica for Philadelphia, and more importantly, why did he leave his dazzling riches behind?

Historical Fiction (Pre-Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Salt Cedars in Winter* by D. J. Niko.** A king's humble nature leads him to build an empire. But when passion and arrogance creep into his soul, everything collapses to ruin.

SECOND PLACE

***King's Ransom* by William Speir.** An English Navy frigate is sent on a secret mission to the Americas to stop French and Spanish treasure fleets from reaching Europe and funding the coming war against England.

Horror/Dark Fantasy (Pre-Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Flocked: Birds of a Feather* by Peggy Kassees.** Nellie, once kidnapped, abused, and left for dead, is now a Promethean down to her DNA. Able to change from gargoyle to human at whim, she's ready to kick butt.

Humor/Satire (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***The Gullwing Odyssey* by Antonio Simon, Jr.** When an unusual assignment sends Marco overseas, he finds himself stranded in foreign lands. With the help of his friends, he becomes the hero he strove not to be.

SECOND PLACE

***Dead in Boca* by Miriam Auerbach.** Harley-riding, wisecracking female private eye Dirty Harriet hunts for a lonely hearts scam artist who may – or may not – have bulldozed a south Florida builder.

Humor/Satire (Pre-Published)

FIRST PLACE

***The Short Ride* by Jean Axtell Nelson.** A nine-year-old girl spots her mama hopping on the back of a caboose and struggles to justify her return, despite the relentless swirl of a small-town gossip.

Mainstream/Literary (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Jubilee's Journey* by Bette Lee Crosby.** Two orphaned children undertake a perilous journey in search of family and find that even in the face of danger, love and their belief in each other conquers all.

Mainstream/Literary (Pre-Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Sacred Ashes* by Lloyd R. Agee.** This is a generational conflict between youthful idealisms's blind pursuit of justice versus an older generation more concerned with status and legacy.

Mainstream/Literary (Pre-Published) Continued

SECOND PLACE

***Those Dark Places* by Kate Newton.** When ten-year-old Brett's younger brother Timmy dies in a skating accident, everyone blames their alcoholic father, but there's more to the story, and Brett knows it, because she was there.

SECOND PLACE

***Code Name Nanette* by M. E. Dawson.** When Joe Parker's quest to identify his grandfather leads to Nanette, a spy who served with his grandmother during World War II, he'll never see women the same way again.

Mystery (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***The Pastor and the Private Eye* by T. H. Pine.** This murder mystery delves into the dark side of human nature.

SECOND PLACE

***Dance of Deception* by Trish Reeb.** Grief-stricken over her best friend's murder, a school counselor plunges into perilous waters in her quest to find the killer. A detective fishes her out along with the clues surfacing with her.

Romance (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Dreams of Perfection* by Rebecca Heflin.** A best-selling romance writer lives her very own Pygmalion romance when her latest carefully-crafted hero comes to life. Who could be more perfect for her?

SECOND PLACE

***Between the Lies* by Alison Oburia.** Cari Lopez is on the run with accountant Tristan Saunders, a man she's just met who cheated the Bulgarian mafia. No one can be trusted, and anyone can be bought.

Romance (Pre-Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Alien Attachments Book One* by Stephanie Priestley.** A human and an alien are tied by an undeniable bond, but he's not happy about it and she's not letting some alien voodoo decide her fate.

Science Fiction (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Waterproof* by Amber Garr.** In a post-apocalyptic world where water is scarce and dying of thirst is a reality, two deserters discover that a fate once thought to hold their demise may actually be the key to their survival.

SECOND PLACE

***Lifespan* by T. J. Silverio.** An unexpected scientific discovery threatens Jamie Pierce's dreams, romance and ultimately her safety. Declan uncovers the ugly truth behind the corporate scheme to peddle longevity, but can he protect Jamie?

THIRD PLACE

***DragonFly* by Charles A. Cornell.** A young woman with the fate of a nation in her hands. An aircraft designed by science fueled by magic and flown with passion. A World War re-imagined like never before.

Science Fiction (Pre-Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Angela's Apple* by Arthur M. Doweiko.** What if guardian angels were real, but weren't angels? And one fell in love with a human? And what if, together, they uncovered the greatest conspiracy ever to face humankind?

Science Fiction (Pre-Published) continued

SECOND PLACE

***Jenny Leigh 8* by Mike Arsuaga.** Model Eight of the Jenny Leigh line is the gold standard for recreational androids but during a worldwide apocalypse she shows she's more than another pretty face.

Thriller/Suspense (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Deadly Drifts* by M. W. Gordon.** Maxwell Hunt was a Florida law professor and is in a federal protection program as fly fishing guide Macduff Brooks, living in Montana and Florida. He cannot escape his foreign assailants, who doubt that he died. A client is killed on his drift boat, and his cabin is rigged with bombs.

SECOND PLACE

***Power Fade* by Keith Gockenbach.** Professional golfer Roy Gilbert wakes, dazed and defenseless, in the mangrove swamp of the Everglades. Mystery and suspense are brought to the high-profile world of professional golf.

THIRD PLACE

***The Pill Game* by Darryl Bollinger.** After a chance encounter with an abused young girl, a reluctant Florida clinic manager risks it all to battle a prescription drug ring.

Thriller/Suspense (Pre-Published)

FIRST PLACE

***The Spies Among Us* by Linda M. Reynolds.** Following her sister's death in a mysterious explosion, a young computer expert is drawn into a web of treachery and deceit that threatens Boston with a devastating terrorist attack.

SECOND PLACE

***Shark Fin Soup* by Susan Klaus.** A young man becomes an eco-terrorist when trying to save sharks from extinction.

THIRD PLACE

***A Lion in Spring* by Kenneth R. Overman.** An American writer trapped in a Greek national crisis. A decayed body in an attic. Nazi legacy. North Korean weapons. Love, in one of the world's most beautiful locales.

Women's Fiction (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Camelia* by Dianna Dann.** April is standing on a rooftop, ready to jump to her death, when she remembers Camelia. Will the truth about Camelia save her, or lead her back to the roof?

SECOND PLACE

***Previously Loved Treasures* by Bette Lee Crosby.** This heartwarming mystery is rich with imagination, magic, and the joy of a pay-it-forward philosophy. It is Book Two in the Serendipity Series.

Women's Fiction (Published) continued

THIRD PLACE

***Slippery Slopes* by Tricia Pimental.** Libby Landis has quit her job, hoping to reclaim a sense of self. Romance helps, but not until an accident unearths a long-kept secret does she triumph over the past.

Women's Fiction (Pre-Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Merciful Blessings* by Lynn Kathleen.** Relationships are not for the faint of heart. Hope Faith, and Grace Blessing are three sisters who must learn to forgive, love, and have faith in themselves and the Lord.

SECOND PLACE

***A Will of Her Own* by Anne Nichols Reynolds.** An act of fate and a last will and testament places Katie Mulholland on a ranch in Florida. In conflict with Judd Stetson and his daughter for one year.

THIRD PLACE

***Of a Palm Beach Persuasion* by Faydra M. Stratton.** The setting is under the baking Florida sun with jet ski accidents instead of sea wall tumbles, and a heroine who drives her own Mercedes thank you very much.

JUVENILE FICTION

Children's Picture Books (Pre-Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Iggy Won't Bite your Toes* by Shirley Fickie.** Iggy is about a little girl who is afraid of iguanas, but through education and experience, learns that her fear is unfounded.

Children's Chapter Book (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***A New Home in Melon Patch, The Adventures of Freddie & Stumper, Book Two* by Linda J. Chapman and Mary Lois Sanders.** When the family moves to Melon Patch, Freddie secretly takes Stumper, the bullfrog, along. But there's no swamp near their new home and Stumper needs a new home, too!

Middle-Grade Fiction (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Down from the Mountains* by Mary Lois Sanders.** In 1774, as his pa's dying, Timothy, age twelve, promises to leave the Allegheny to find his guardians. But Tim begins his journey east not sure he wants to go.

SECOND PLACE

***Pairs on Ice* by Elizabeth Weiss Vollstadt.** Jamie knows she and Matt could be a winning team, but can they stop fighting long enough to make it happen?

Middle-Grade Fiction (Pre-Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Cover Up* by Robin Renna.** A twelve year-old Mexican-American boy struggles with his identity and a new stepfamily while trying to solve a crime at his father's Texas cattle ranch.

SECOND PLACE

***The Griffin's Quest* by Sharon E. Johnson.** Michael is a twelve-year-old boy who moves with his mom into his grandparents' house and discovers life is more fantastic, dangerous, and impossible than he ever imagined.

Middle-Grade Fiction (Pre-Published) continued

THIRD PLACE

***Papa's Promise* by Millie Richmond.** Twelve-year-old Esther and her family leave czarist Russia to join Papa in America. Traveling secretly, they endure a difficult trek: betrayal, intimidating soldiers, theft, and illness. But their determination never wanes.

Young Adult (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***The Vision Seeker* by Mary Lois Sanders.** A fourteen year-old girl sees an attack on her Tuscarora village, but many don't believe her. Then the attack leaves her the oldest of twenty survivors. Can she guide them to safety?

SECOND PLACE

***Coriander Jones Saves the World* by Kim English.** A thirteen year-old girl attending a summer camp for underprivileged youth discovers a surprising family legacy when she must battle ancient deities determined to destroy humanity.

Young Adult (Pre-Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Contraptioneer* by Eric Hammond.** In a cloud-draped world on the brink of war, young kidnapped inventor Gizitch, befriended by spies, seeks the answer to his abduction and the cure to a strange disease.

PLAYS

Screen Play

FIRST PLACE

***The Silver Bullet* by Jennie Jarvis.** The best superhero in a city full of superheroes yearns to be a regular guy, but a new supervillain threatens to destroy everyone he loves if he doesn't stop him.

SHORT FICTION

Flash Fiction (Pre-Published)

FIRST PLACE

***First Impressions* by Linda Barbosa.** Carlos Chavez overcomes cultural differences and vicious guard dogs while picking up his wealthy prom date. But his well-intentioned attempt to save her from embarrassment creates an unfortunate first impression.

Flash Fiction (Pre-Published) continued

SECOND PLACE

***Guess What's in My Pocket* by Sharon E. Johnson.** Katie spent her whole life being the perfect, dutiful daughter. But not today. Today would be different.

THIRD PLACE

***Reflections* by Joan Harris.** Routine task leads to poignant discovery.

THIRD PLACE

***Innocence of the Guilty* by Gayle H. Swift.** As a mother awaits sentencing for her drug-addicted son, she recalls the lost innocence of his youth.

Short Story (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Karl's Last Night* by Laura Andrews.** Modern Noir.

SECOND PLACE

***The Wreck of the Edinburgh Kate* by Ken Pelham.** A stormy sea. A ship runs aground, and a frenzied group of salvagers rushes to plunder it. But what if the ship transports not wealth from England, but horror?

THIRD PLACE

***The Ultimate Cliché* by Jennifer Boddicker.** A sexually frustrated wife takes her husband out for a romantic birthday dinner only to discover why the passion in their marriage has fizzled.

Short Story (Pre-Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Too Close to the Wind* by Marie Vernon.** A daughter recalls her father's summer affair.

SECOND PLACE

***Antonia's Garden* by Karen Dillon.** Lovely Antonia Prinsep really puts her heart and soul into her garden, and woe to the man who tries to pluck a rose.

THIRD PLACE

***Beating Cats* by John Hope.** A teenage crush for a boy sends Kat on a downward spiral as she wrestles with the loss of her baby brother.

THIRD PLACE

***The Dance* by John Hope.** A five-year-old boy yearns to go to his older brother's school dance until he realizes he really wants to be his older brother.

Novella (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***My Heart Still Surrenders* by Robbi Perna.** Caught up as a pawn in nineteenth century Ital's struggle for reunification, Carolina, the beautiful and wealthy Contessina DeSimone, makes a desperate bid for freedom and her own identity.

Novella (Pre-Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Song of Faith* by R. M. Prioleau.** Sometimes the power of music can be the greatest weapon of all.

SECOND PLACE

***The Magic in the Middle* by Mark Reasoner.** What would happen if Santa didn't believe in Santa anymore? Phil Clausen must make sure this doesn't happen since his older brother will someday take over from their father.

THIRD PLACE

***Natasha, Princess of Slovabenia* by J. H. Weis.** How Natasha Radovic, daughter of a King and Faerie eventually becomes the most powerful figure in the World of Western Folklore.

BOOK-LENGTH NONFICTION

Autobiography/Memoir (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Meeting Her Match: the Story of a Female Athlete-Coach, before and After Title IX* by Debbie Millbern Powers.** Debbie, an athlete and feminist, grows up painfully denied sports opportunities, then coaches a high school girls' volleyball team forced to play against boys in a controversial, raucous state championship.

SECOND PLACE

***From the Inside Out* by John David Tinny.** How to destroy a U. S. State Department Foreign Service career may not have a moral, but one thing is certain: it's not pretty and it's not funny.

THIRD PLACE

***A Life of Blood and Danger* by Daniel J. Hill.** From his early childhood, Dan Hill wanted to be a soldier. At the age of 15, he forged his birth certificate and enlisted in the United States Army.

Autobiography/Memoir (Pre-Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Sweet Bitter Sweet* by Sharon Whitehill.** This memoir explores a thwarted young love, the life-shaping power of its loss, and the impact of a 57 year-old diary on the protagonists, which coalesce in an unexpected disclosure.

SECOND PLACE

***Monastery to Matrimony, A Woman's Journey* by Mary Ann Weakley.** *Monastery to Matrimony* tells of a woman's twenty years in a convent before a fellow nun's actions fractured her lifetime commitment. It is sometimes humorous, sometimes tragic, but always revealing.

Biography (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Begotten with Love: Every Family Has Its Story* by JoAnn V. Glim.** A sometime turbulent, sometime rollicking biography spanning 150 years of American history and five generations of an immigrant's family. It reads like fiction...but it's not.

Educational/Informational (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Finding Humor in Grief* by Dr. Ruth L. Baskerville.** Being forced to handle daily tasks without my husband of 45 years showed me a humorous side to grief. This is my journey through bereavement, and my spiritual healing.

SECOND PLACE

***Schools: A Niche Market for Authors* by Jane R. Wood.** Former teacher and author Jane R. Wood shares many of the strategies she has used for ten years to successfully market and sell her books to schools.

Educational/Informational (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Beating Bullies* by Joan J. Harris.** As a child, she knew the power of the neighborhood bully to create fear and cowering. As an adult, she realized that the fear of returning breast cancer had all the dimensions of bullying.

History (Pre-Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Black Indian – Red Heart (White Justice)* by Frederick H. Savage.** Black Indian – Red Heart (White Justice) is a historically accurate novel that leads up to the 'largest mass execution' in US history. This story contains violence and sometimes offensive language.

Travel (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Wild Florida Adventures* by Doug Alderson.** From kayaking the length of the Florida Keys to meeting the famous naked man of the Santa Fe River, *Wild Florida Adventures* takes readers into Florida's unique places.

SECOND PLACE

***Drinking Around the World* by Terry W. Lyons.** Where to drink around the world examines the history, culture, customs and present day role of drinking alcohol in over 20 countries around the world.

THIRD PLACE

***Memoirs of a Solo Traveler – My Love Affair with Italy* by Margie Miklas.** During Margie's first trip to Italy, she fell in love with the country and the people. Now she returns for a three-month solo adventure.

SHORT NONFICTION

Creative Nonfiction (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Meant To Be: A Love Story of 70 Years* by Mary Dodge Allen.** A former World War II bomber pilot and his wife share a vibrant love that has endured the separation of war, the death of their only son, and the struggles of aging.

SECOND PLACE

***Will I Lose My Son?* by Mary Dodge Allen.** After her four-year-old son suffers life-threatening burns in a kitchen accident, a mother struggles with her guilt, and faces the potential anguish of losing him.

THIRD PLACE

***Baby, Can I Bum a Cigarette?* by Calli Levison.** If I'd only known...my answer would have always been, "You bet."

Creative Nonfiction (Pre-Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Jumping the Fence* by Elizabeth Nebergall.** When her mother discovers her father's affair with a neighbor, a young girl approaching puberty parallels her mother's denial and acceptance with her own resistance to growth and change.

Creative Nonfiction (Pre-Published) continued

SECOND PLACE

***Earth Angel* by Beda Kantarjian.** Goldie's entrance and exit remain mysterious to residents of a drought-stricken Texas town, but the change the stranger brings is real.

THIRD PLACE

***Fowl Encounter in Brooklyn* by Daniel R. Tardona.** Story of how an early Brooklyn experience taught a lesson about life. It seems ironic that such a lesson could be learned in an inner-city so far from any farm.

POETRY

Poetry (Pre-Published)

FIRST PLACE

***How Novel* by Gayle H. Swift.** A poem captures the creative process as words swirl from chaos into a completed novel.

SECOND PLACE

***...AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT* BY Virginia Nygard.** An illustration of the economic disparity in society.

THIRD PLACE

***A Shower of Children* by Christine L. Yarbour.** A colorful metaphor of children at the end of the school day.