

# 2016 Royal Palm Literary Award Winners



## PUBLISHED BOOK OF THE YEAR

### *Mud*

Fantasy. E.J. Wenstrom

Torn apart by war and abandoned by the gods, only one hope remains to save humanity. But the savior isn't human at all.

**E. J. Wenstrom** is a fantasy and science fiction author living in Cape Canaveral, FL. When she's not writing fiction, E. J. drinks coffee, runs, and has long conversations with her dog.

## UNPUBLISHED BOOK OF THE YEAR

### *Cleaning House*

Mainstream/Literary. Jennifer Boddicker

A fugitive learns he has a grown daughter. Nervous to meet, he becomes her handyman instead, and seduces her housekeeper. When the truth comes out, he must fight for redemption.

Despite being raised by free-love biker hippies in the Bible belt, two out of three therapists agree **Jennifer Boddicker** turned out pretty normal. And she's got some great stories.

## THE DAHRIS CLAIR MEMORIAL AWARD

### *Shinyo Maru*

Screenplay/Stage Play/Teleplay. Bill Dougherty

True story of the 82 survivors of the Japanese Hell Ship Shinyo Maru.

**Bill Dougherty**, while unpublished and unproduced, has written 13 novels and 10 screenplays, and is an active member in the Jacksonville, Florida, writers group, The Bard Society.

## BOOK-LENGTH FICTION

### Published Blended Genre

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **The Girl in the Glyphs**. David C. Edmonds. A Smithsonian specialist in ancient writing struggles with her love interests while trying to decipher a wall of mysterious "glyphs" in Nicaragua and outwit a murderous gang of tomb looters.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **Fraccidental Death: An Eco-Thriller**. Donna Meredith. Grad student Summer Cassidy must determine whether a West Virginia fracking company is responsible for contaminated water that is making residents ill.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **When Darkness Fell**. Susan Lindsley. In small town Georgia in 1946 an interracial couple struggles to survive attacks from the KKK while community leaders betray each other and the town celebrates its sesquicentennial.

### Unpublished Blended Genre

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Fairy Free**. Janet D'Andrea. When Poppy Elver, a smaller than average fairy, attempts a forbidden bit of magic, she finds herself in a mortal-sized mess that leads to a life-changing, love-affirming adventure.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **Lisbeth**. Marina Brown. A Mississippi woman rebuilds her mother's property to understand the "ghosts" of the past as sins of Jim Crow days are revealed and avenged by her mother's spectral presence.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **The other Shoulder**. Benjamin Seeley. The story chronicles the existence the three souls throughout one man's life. The main character is Jason Burns. The other two are his guardian angels, evil EZ and good Angelica.

### Published Fantasy

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Mud**. E.J. Wenstrom. Torn apart by war and abandoned by the gods, only one hope remains to save humanity. But the savior isn't human at all.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **One Little Word**. T.A. Peters. In 1896 Florida, two young women intervene to save dozens of children from sexual slavery when they discover their family's dark secret hidden behind the façade of a faith-healing angel.

### Unpublished Fantasy

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Fairy Free**. Janet D'Andrea. When Poppy Elver, a smaller than average fairy, attempts a forbidden bit of magic, she finds herself in a mortal-sized mess that leads to a life-changing, love-affirming adventure.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **The Tournament of Moons.** Joseph Mazerac. Usually when people are kidnapped by goblins they are never seen again, but those people are not friends with a giant like Jodie Highways.

#### Published Historical Fiction

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Tortuga Bay.** SR Staley. Isabella and her trusted quarter master are chased by Spanish pirate hunters into Port-au-Prince where they become embroiled in a nascent slave revolt and a clash of colonial empires.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **A Place We Knew Well.** Susan Carol McCarthy. A work of historical fiction, A Place we Knew Well explores the 13-day period of panic, fear and uncertainty that seized one ordinary Florida community during the Cuban Missile Crisis.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **Roland: of Pirates and Patriots.** Timothy Freriks. Based on real people and critical events, Roland brings pirates and patriots together in a complex and gripping weave of deceit, courage, mystery, and adventure surrounding the War of 1812.

#### Unpublished Historical Fiction

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **The Prince of Glencurragh.** Nancy Blanton. In 1634, a young Irish warrior abducts an heiress to help restore his stolen heritage, but lands squarely in the crossfire between the four most powerful men in Ireland.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **The Artisan.** Gene Luke. In the turbulence of World War II Germany, hunger for life turns a POW into a traitor to his homeland, but love makes him a hero to the world.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **Refugees.** Claire Hamner Matturro. A young runaway slave woman, a Black soldier and a white abolitionist bond as they struggle to survive the last brutal days of the American Civil War and early Reconstruction.

#### Published Humor/Satire (fiction)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **The Cow in the Doorway.** Gino B. Bardi. Tony had a few simple goals for his freshman year at college: stay out of the draft, get high, find a girlfriend. But then his life happened.

#### Unpublished Humor/Satire (fiction)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Ragtime Dudes in a Thin Place.** Richard Gartee. Ragtime is in, Victorians are out, and free love is a way of life for three New York dandies opening an emporium in 1904 Taos, NM.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **George Ade Malone and the Paradise Test.** Jean Sullivan Johnson. It isn't how old you're going to get. It's how you're going to get old.

### Published Mainstream/Literary

- 1st Place. **The Loss of All Lost Things.** Amina Lolita Gautier. Fifteen stories explore the unpredictable ways in which characters negotiate, experience, and manage various forms of loss.
- 2nd Place. **Tortuga Bay.** SR Staley. Isabella and her trusted quarter master Jean-Michel are chased by Spanish pirate hunters into Port-au-Prince in 1782 where they become embroiled in colonial international intrigue and a nascent slave revolt.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **A Bit of Sun.** Ann Henry. A career-threatening love-hate relationship with a famous fashion designer plagues Aussie architect Britt MacFarlane until a deadly confrontation frees him to achieve his destiny and gain self-acceptance.

### Unpublished Mainstream/Literary

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Cleaning House.** Jennifer Boddicker. A fugitive learns he has a grown daughter. Nervous to meet, he becomes her handyman instead, and seduces her housekeeper. When the truth comes out, he must fight for redemption.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **George Ade Malone and the Paradise Test.** Jean Sullivan Johnson. It isn't how old you're going to get. It's how you're going to get old.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **Liwayway.** Carding Mor. Liwayway describes her journey from a Filipino hamlet to a city where the sex tourist industry ensnares her. Sixteen years later, she's wounded on a mountain and charged with assassination.

### Published Mystery

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **The Perdiccas Scroll.** John Marling March. Adventure and intrigue surround police detective/Army reservist Miles Cannon who returns to Iraq to investigate a friend's death. He will unmask a killer and solve an ancient desert mystery.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **Emerald Obsession.** Carolyn Greeley. In the Bahamas, a feisty Manhattan jeweler acquires centuries-old emeralds, key to her client's family secrets. Returning home, she battles a ruthless killer determined to possess the long-lost pirate gems.

### Unpublished Mystery

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **False Front.** Keith Gockenbach. When Steve Nash's wife dies in a fiery car crash, he's devastated. When the police determine that her death is murder, he becomes the prime suspect. Steve is a golf journalist, not a detective, but he must become an investigator to discover the truth behind his wife's death.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **Billie Mae.** Elle Andrews Patt. Researcher Andrea Kelley can either catch a six-year-old's killer or rescue her BFF from the lethal clutches of his ex. The kid's ghost has a definite opinion on the matter.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **The Other Side of the Coin.** Henry James Kaye. Every coin has two sides—we chose which side we look at.

### Published Novella

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Crystal Night.** Charles A. Cornell. When Vivian Wexler travels to a distant planet to solve a suicide epidemic, a surprise encounter with an old flame puts her on the wrong side of her own investigation.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, **Mistletoe Justice.** Carol J. Post. Six months ago, Darci Tucker landed her dream job. It's about to become a nightmare. She has stumbled onto something deadly, and someone is determined to silence her, maybe permanently.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **Little Angel Helper.** Bria Burton. Jobless, debt-riddled Bradley wants to do right by his sister with special needs and become her legal guardian, but it will take a miracle.

### Unpublished Novella

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Butterfly in a Hurricane.** Kerryn Reid. Can he catch her?
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **Raina's Run.** Elizabeth Nebergall. Raina bin-Adin survived her lover's betrayal. Now she faces forced marriage, blackmail, and murder. Pursued from Tangier to the Moroccan mountains, what must she sacrifice to protect everyone she loves?
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **The Soralole Suicides.** Patricia A. Crumpler. On the eve of one of history's darkest moments, a Swedish bartender working in Nazi Germany accidentally uncovers a woman's hidden past. Can he avoid becoming an accomplice as the Holocaust accelerates?

### Published Romance

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Winter Harvest.** Anne Nichols Reynolds. Dana Winter leaves behind tragedy and loss to heal on her aunt's cattle ranch in Colorado. This is one woman's journey to acceptance, wholeness, and new love.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **Worth Her Weight.** Janet Franks Little. When a once obese woman falls in love with her dream man, she is forced to face one more bully to prove she is worth her weight.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **Dreams of Her Own.** Rebecca Heflin. Sexy Bad Boy meets Marion the Librarian. Will they look beneath the surface and see there's more to each other than meets the eye?

### Unpublished Romance

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **One More Breath.** Amber Garr. A young woman tired of being abused finds a second chance at life while discovering how to let love into her heart once more.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **Esther and Me.** Stephen Leitschuh. When Esther tells Steve, "I've got plans for you," he had no idea that those five words would change his life in ways he never could have imagined.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **Glass Promises.** Janet Franks Little. When the daughter of a rich man's mistress falls in love, she must overcome the scheming of a malicious, jealous woman to find happiness and a new family.

### Published Science Fiction

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Zara.** Jade Kerrion. From Disneyland to Beirut, Zara Itani, assassin extraordinaire, unleashes her particular brand of havoc. She could start a war, or stop it. Decisions, decisions....
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **Reflection: Book One.** W. Scott Causey. "Reflection" finds society weighing the advent ages of a technology capable of answering any question humankind could ever ask, but at the price of sacrificing its core values to unholy fact.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **Xin.** Jade Kerrion. The clone of a Shang-dynasty queen must live up to the legend of her ancestor and stem the chaos that imperils the decades-long peace between China and America.

### Unpublished Science Fiction

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **The Brazos Formation.** Matthew A. Rieder. While prospecting for oil in the Gulf of Mexico, Rich Plithers and his crew discover an undersea chasm filled with bizarre, dangerous creatures. Rich must seal the chasm to survive.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **Henry the Last.** Arthur M. Doweyko. Henry Wind-In-Trees could care less about the end of the world, that is, until it came looking for him.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **The Roswell Swatch.** Scott Michael Powers. Troubled Army veteran Eve Mirada and former rock star Max Studebaker take a dangerous quest to authenticate a swatch of mysterious material reported to be debris of the Roswell UFO.

### Published Thriller/Suspense

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **The Lost Concerto.** Helaine Mario. Widowed concert pianist is swept up in a decades-old secret involving lost music and art from WWII and a search across France for her missing godson. Suspense, intrigue, humor, romance.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **Mast Island.** Anne Nichols Reynolds. Abby Parson's journey to find her identity places her in peril. She becomes the catalyst, setting into motion the downfall and redemption of a family imprisoned by the past.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **Fraccidental Death: An Eco-Thriller.** Donna Meredith. Grad student Summer Cassidy must determine whether a West Virginia fracking company is responsible for contaminated water that is making residents ill.

#### Unpublished Thriller/Suspense

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Gatorman.** Mark McWaters. All kinds of monsters live in the swamps and canals of the Everglades. Logan Rivers will meet more than his share of them and one will capture his heart.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **The Dark and the Dead.** Dana J. Summers. The lone survivor of Gentleman Jack's murder spree relives her nightmare when five years later the killings resume.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **The Heretic of Granada.** David C. Edmonds. A Jesuit priest, on the run from the Inquisition, struggles with pirates, apparitions, and an Irish beauty in his efforts to rescue his children from a liaison with a native wife.

#### Published Women's Fiction

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **The Girl in the Glyphs.** David C. Edmonds. A Smithsonian specialist in ancient writing struggles with her love interests while trying to decipher a wall of mysterious "glyphs" in Nicaragua and outwit a murderous gang of tomb looters.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **Bookish Meets Boy.** Dianna Dann. Can a cross-genre kind of girl really let herself fall for a cat-hating thriller reader?
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **Four of a Kind.** Vanessa Russell. Four generations of women agree to write about their year of awakening. Instead, each comes with her own isolated agenda: to either tell off or tell all.

#### Unpublished Women's Fiction

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **The Middle of Somewhere.** Faun Joyce Senatro. The new teacher of a downtrodden, coal mining Pennsylvania town, Lauri expects to "make a difference" in their lives, never realizing how the people and community will affect her life.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **North of the Killing Hand.** Joni M. Fisher. After surviving childhood tragedy, Nefi Jenkins pursues a life in law enforcement, but later must choose between the rule of law and the temptation of revenge.

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **Negotiating Her Way.** Jennifer Leigh Cook. Taffeta Winsome negotiates because it's fun, so when her boss makes her learn the rules of negotiating, she resolves to win her business (and personal) negotiations by negotiating HER way.

## BOOK-LENGTH NONFICTION

### Published Autobiography/Memoir

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Managing Bubbie.** Russel Lazega. A defiant mother's incredible escape from the Nazis and the confounded family that must try to manage her 40 years later.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **We Were Amateur Soldiers.** Victor DiGenti. Martin Olsen considers himself a lucky man—an amateur soldier who helped win a world war, and as part of the Great Generation went on to transform our American society.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **A Movable Marriage.** Tricia Pimental. Sparks fly as Travels with Charley meets You Can't Go Home Again in this memoir by a confirmed homebody in love with an incurable nomad.

### Unpublished Autobiography/Memoir

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Resolve, Courage, Hope.** Alison Nissen. The true story of murder, aftershock, court trials, and picking up the pieces.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **Casualties of Peacemaking.** Beverly Johnson Biehr. A former war protester who rubbed shoulders with 1960s Chicago newsmakers shares her experiences, which will speak to today's youth searching for life purpose in a culture of violence.

### Unpublished Biography

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **The Bed I Made.** Robert M. Lynch. Bravery, valor, and resilience displayed on the gruesome battlefields of Korea paled against the courage and faith Joe would muster for an improbable triumph over his five-decade battle with PTSD.

### Published Educational/Informational

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **The Power of 2—Jump Start Your Business.** Jack L. Hayes. Sharp “how to” insight for entrepreneurs to use in tripling their chances of success for their start-up business.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **The Novel Pitch.** Ann Henry. The Novel Pitch presents 32 pitches in 25 categories and analyzes the query letter and sample pitches to help authors write successful queries for their fiction.



- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **The Single Dad Detour.** Tez Brooks. This survival guidebook addresses the importance of spiritual, emotional and financial health for single fathers. Using the stories and practical advice from single dads, it's a humorous and invaluable companion for fathers at all stages of their journey.

## FICTION FOR YOUTH

### Published Early Reader / Picture Book

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Once Around the Lake.** Susan Woods Golder. When Odie and his frisky friend Max explore the shores of their quiet lake, they discover the wonders of nature, the joy of friendship, and a motley crew of neighbors.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **A Home for Kayla.** Kim English. A stray dog navigates life at the pound as she waits for a forever home.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **Jeremaih Josephat Jeepers Malone.** Linda Leggett. A huge, hairy one-eyed beast returns to Sconeville smashing homes and scaring the Scones. Why? Sammy Sleuth solves the problem. The Scones make Three J's glasses so they can all be friends.

### Unpublished Early Reader / Picture Book

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Wait for me! Would you mind?** Agnes Deglon. Second installment of the trilogy "Kid's Questions About Life" – for kids pondering the more complex questions of life: What's a mind? What are the mind's limitations and its power?
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **Ace of Hearts.** Patricia A. Crumpler. A stray puppy searching for food finds a valuable treasure--a loving home.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **Tally and Talulah the Outdoor Adventurers.** Aimee Taylor. Tally and Talulah Twinning are adorable first-grade tomboys whose adventures take place solely outdoors on the shore of the riverfront home they've just moved to.

### Published Chapter Book

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **True Friends are Hard to Find, Book Five.** Linda J. Chapman, Mary Lois Sanders. Stumper, the bullfrog, loves his new home and friends, but earthmovers destroy the pond. Before he and his friends can find a new home they're in for a wild ride.

### Unpublished Chapter Book

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Finnigan the Circus Cat.** Mary T. Wagner. Finnigan is a rescue kitten who has to fly “under the radar” at a small town circus museum. Befriended by a pair of mice, he discovers his acrobatic talents and saves his pals from disaster!

### Published Middle-Grade Fiction

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Jacqueline.** Jackie Minniti. Based on a true story, Jacqueline is a tale of family, faith, unusual friendships, and the resiliency of the human spirit set against the backdrop of occupied France in 1944.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **Pankyland.** John Hope. When 11-year-old Panky loses his little brother at a theme park, he's forced to team up with his rival to find the boy before their parents find out.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **Welcome to Monstrovica.** Mark H. Newhouse. Brodie learns about the law and faces incredible dangers, when he is sent to live with his lawyer uncle, Doofinch the Defender, in a land of mythical monsters and fictional folk.

### Unpublished Middle-Grade Fiction

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Mormor’s Piano.** Amy Brown. With a new stepmother and move to Sweden, Ellen, 12, clings to secrets binding her to her late mother. Near tragedy forces father and daughter to confront their buried grief.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **The Boy Who Dreamed Mount Everest.** Lawrence Martin. Over several nights a 9-year-old boy dreams he is climbing Mount Everest. This causes some stress at home and school. Will he make it to the top?
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **The Mystery at Moz Hollow.** A.K. Hicks. Maggie travels to a Gothic mansion in northern Minnesota and discovers a long-forgotten scavenger hunt. Danger, inside and out, threatens her goal of reaching the end before time runs out.

### Published Young Adult / New Adult

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **The Cow in the Doorway.** Gino B. Bardi. Tony's goals for his freshman year were simple: avoid the draft, get high, find a girlfriend. But then his life happened.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **Tortuga Bay.** SR Staley. Isabella and her trusted quarter master Jean-Michel are chased by Spanish pirate hunters into Port-au-Prince in 1782 where they become embroiled in colonial international intrigue and a nascent slave revolt.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **Surf Shop Sisters.** Laura Kennedy. You can't be in two places at one time, something sixteen-year-old Brooke Bentley learns covering for love-struck BFF Maria, resulting in accusations by police Brooke has masterminded a crime.

### Unpublished Young Adult / New Adult

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Wayward Girls**. Claire Hamner Matturro. Two teen girls are tried as adults for setting a man on fire--are they crazed killers or just wayward girls trapped in a boarding school scam turned deadly?
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **Waking the Dead**. Amber Garr. A necromancer on a mission discovers that some secrets are never meant to rise from the dead.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **Silencing Sharks**. John Hope. Deaf and bullied, thirteen-year-old Peter discovers he can talk to sharks. And he must put this unique skill to use to rescue them from extinction, while saving his blackmailed dad.

## GENERAL CATCH-ALL

### Published General Catch-All

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Professor Birdsong's Law School Guide**. Leonard Birdsong. You have the ability and the drive; now get the advice from this book that will guide you into the legal profession.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **Now We Will be Happy**. Amina Lolita Gautier. A prize-winning collection of stories about Afro-Puerto Ricans, U.S.-mainland-born Puerto Ricans, and displaced native Puerto Ricans who are living between spaces while attempting to navigate the unique culture that defines Puerto Rican identity.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **The Slave's Diary**. Kenneth R. McClelland. A man chronicles his life from boyhood in Africa to slavery in America, going from master to master, making adventures and friends where he can on his journey to freedom.

### Unpublished General Catch-All

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Backpack Blues**. Melody Dean Dimick. As they try to complete their senior year at Mountain Top High unscathed, Cora and her classmates face bullies led by Ross, the football quarterback, and the self-proclaimed cool kids.

## SCREENPLAY/STAGE PLAY/TELEPLAY

### Unproduced Play

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Shinyo Maru**. Bill Dougherty. True story of the 82 survivors of the Japanese Hell Ship Shinyo Maru.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **St. Alden's**. David-Michael Harding. St. Alden's University prepares the finest young men and women to shape the world's future. Tuition is adherence to a strict curfew that secretly enables the University's future while protecting the students' lives.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **Ascent of Evil**. Michael Brim. The scientific discovery of the first real vampire. A coastal community terrorized by a transgenic, psychopathic predator. Panama City must confront a serial killer like none other.

## SHORT FICTION

### Unpublished Poetry

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Sonnet IX**. Ellinore Jensen. I attempted to treat a most unattractive subject with one of the most respected forms of poetry, describing a poorly maintained rest stop on Florida's Interstate 10.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **Ysobel Gomez**. Melody Dean Dimick. An illegal immigrant understands the importance of her education.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **Dilemma**. Phyllis McKinley. How would Emily Dickinson and Robert Frost have responded to the lure of today's social media?

### Unpublished Flash Fiction

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **The Choice**. Aimee Taylor. The bad choice has already been made, but now teenage mother Bella Warren is faced with a decision that will echo into eternity.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **What Dog Today**. Zeke Mattheus. An unexpected twist on the saying, "The dog you feed is the dog that wins."
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **He knows, Son. He knows**. Mark McWaters. E.J. and me were ol' pards in a hundred Indian raids. We buried rustlers up to their necks in anthills, ate raw grizzly meat and threw saddles onto shooting stars.

### Published Short Story

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Daddy Was Santa.** John Hope. Christopher discovers a secret: Daddy's Santa. But reality stops Christopher from having what he desires most.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **Water, Ice, and Vice.** Antonio Simon, Jr. Revenge is a drink best served chilled: Jeremy's new apartment harbors a demonic wish-granting fridge, which he uses to exact bloody vengeance on his obnoxious roommate.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **Two Milers.** John Hope. Underdog distance runner, nicknamed Turtle, fights for his last chance to not disappoint his hero and mentor, older brother Devon, in his final two mile track meet.

### Unpublished Short Story

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **Spears and Promises.** Robert Hart. Tragedy and understanding emerge during the cultural clash between a white undergraduate from southern Africa and a post-graduate African MD, forced to room together in Ireland during the colonial era.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **Can you help me with that?** Christopher Hamilton. A woman comes home from war and finds the battle far from over.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **Hard Times and Bright Stars.** Joan King. When twelve-year-old Ollie is asked why his town has two cemeteries, he knows one's for whites and one for coloreds, but there has to be more to it than that.

## SHORT NONFICTION

### Published Creative Nonfiction

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **R.I.P. the Meatball.** Mary T. Wagner. When the author's son adopted an aging cat with bad habits and a superiority complex, no one could predict the moments of tenderness and wonder that followed in his wake.

### Unpublished Creative Nonfiction

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. **The Transition.** K E Garland. "The Transition" describes a daughter's three-year inner conflict to either show compassion towards her estranged and dying father, or to abandon him in his time of need.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. **Words.** John Hope. When I was eight years old, I watched my friend James die. Actually, he wasn't my friend. In fact, I wanted him to die.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. **River Dreams.** Marie Vernon. A journey through grief and loss leads to resolution.