

## 2011 President's Contest

### Walter Williams Major Work Award – Judge Richard Weiss

The Two Civil War Battles of Newtonia by Larry Wood

**Richard Weiss** is the President of the St. Louis Metropolitan Press Club, as well as a writing coach, journalist, editor and author. He has worked for the *Kansas City Star* and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and is a founder and now contributing editor at the *St. Louis Beacon*, an online journal that publishes "news that matters" in the St. Louis region. He is also the owner of WeissWrite LLC, a company that provides coaching, editing and writing services to journalists, students, business people and anyone with a story to tell.

### "Show Me" Best Book Award – Judge Debra DeCoster

1<sup>st</sup> Place: *The Seventh Level* by Jody Feldman

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: *Ozarks Gunfights and Other Notorious Incidents* by Larry Wood

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: *A Shaker of Margaritas: Hot Flash Mommas* edited by Linda Fisher

Honorable Mention: *From Trash to Treasure Evolution of an Ozarks Junkyard* by Betty Craker Henderson

**Debra DeCoster** is president of the Kansas City Press Club. She has been a freelance writer for 17 years and currently works as a reporter for the Kansas City Hispanic News. Her articles have appeared in national and local publications. As a reporter for the *KC Hispanic News*, she has been an award winning journalist with awards from the Tulsa Press Club Great Plains Journalism Competition and the Heart of America Awards.

### Short Story Category – Judge Chalise Bourque

1<sup>st</sup> Place: *Criminal Minds* by Donna Volkenannt

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: *Road Trip* by Linda Fisher

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: *Not Quite Soon Enough* by Lee Ann Russell

**Chalise Bourque** (formerly writing under the name Chalise Miner) has written numerous articles and a children's book called *Rain Forest Girl*. She also writes short stories, novels and poetry. She also edits all genres of writing from her home in Sarasota, Florida. She can be reached at [chalisebourque@gmail.com](mailto:chalisebourque@gmail.com).

### Best Essay Category – Judge John Mark Eberhart

1<sup>st</sup> Place: "Thanksgiving at Jennifer's" by Sally Jadlow

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: When "Mess" is a Gross Understatement by Mary-Lane Kamberg

**John Mark Eberhart** is the author of two poetry collections, *Night Watch* and *Broken Time*. For a decade he was Books Review Editor for the *Kansas City Star*. He now serves as Reader's Advisory Coordinator for Johnson County Library's Central Resource Branch. His work has appeared in *New Letters*, *Pleiades*, the *Mid-America Poetry Review* and many other publications. He has won dozens of academic and writing awards.

## **Best Magazine Article – Judge Carolyn B. Leonard**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Jake Fleagle: Shot and Captured at Branson Depot by Marilyn K. Smith

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: The Thwarted Eureka Springs Bank Robbery by Larry Wood

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Life Underground by Sylvia Forbes

1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention: The Oldest Seed Company in America by Diana West

2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention: Five and Dime Memories by Marti Attoun

**Carolyn B. Leonard**, author, genealogist, speaker, past president of several organizations including the Oklahoma Writers Federation Inc., was recently honored in Kentucky for locating and marking graves of American Revolutionary Patriots. She remains a commissioned article writer for *Persimmon Hill* magazine and has claimed many awards on her work. Her book, *Who's Your Daddy*, published in 2009, has been well received and she enjoys presenting programs to help people find their family's place in history. [www.CarolynBLeonard.com](http://www.CarolynBLeonard.com).

## **2011 Sponsor Contest Winners**

### **Best Ozarks Article – Judge Susan Kirkpatrick**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Museum Honors Black History in the Ozarks by Diana West

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Making Mountain Music: Arkansas Artisans Craft McSpadden Dulcimers by Marti Attoun

**Susan Kirkpatrick** was founder and editor of *Ozarks Magazine* and is the author (Susan Croce Kelly) of *Route 66, the highway and its people*, an award-winning history of the old road published by University of Oklahoma Press (with photographer Quinta Scott). She has been a newspaper reporter in Springfield and St. Louis, an award-winning columnist in Texas, public relations executive in St. Louis and Chicago, worked in Belgium and England, and has been president of her own corporate writing business since 1994. Kirkpatrick has written dozens of freelance articles for newspapers and magazines across the country. She and her husband Joel have three grown children and two perfect grandchildren. They live at the Lake of the Ozarks. (sckchi@aol.com)

### **Best Historic/Nostalgic Article – Judge Becky Singer Imhauser**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: A Sweet Goodbye by Alice Muschany

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Fizz, Flavor & Fun: America's Love Affair With Soda Pops by Marti Attoun

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: The Sweet Smell of Summer by Lynn Cahoon

1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention: Old Red by Sally Jadow

2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention: It's the Big One by Debbie Fox

3<sup>rd</sup> Honorable Mention: The Second Airplane by Jan Morrill

**Becky Carr Imhauser** is an author, educator, and public speaker. She has written five books about Sedalia and Pettis County history. These include *All Along Ohio Street*, a history of downtown Sedalia, and *Sedalia*, part of Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series. Becky also wrote "A Sedalia Christmas," a play about Sedalia's Christmas heritage, which premiered at Sedalia's historic Liberty Theatre in 2008. A former magazine and newspaper editor, Becky has published more than 800 articles in national periodicals. She also produces curriculum

for national and international publishers. Combining her experiencing in publishing and education, Becky frequently makes presentations to conferences and civic groups and leads guided tours of Sedalia. She is a presenter for the Missouri History Speaker's bureau, sponsored by the State Historical Society of Missouri.

### **Best Travel Article – Judge Gary Figgins**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Poverty & Nimiety by Jan Morrill

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Keeping Track of Time by Svetlana Grobman

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Elk Falls, Kansas—It's the Place to Go by Diana West

Honorable Mention: Kiddie Parks: Where Old-Fashioned Fun Still Thrills by Marti Attoun

**Gary Figgins** has served as editor and publisher of *Show-Me Missouri* magazine since 1998, when he launched the quarterly publication that exclusively features Missouri travel destinations and attractions. A lifelong resident of Southeast Missouri, Gary began his career following local news, sports and politics as a staff writer and photographer for *The Democrat-Argus* newspaper in Caruthersville while still in high school. After graduation, he continued to work at the weekly paper while attending college, eventually returning full-time and becoming associate editor. Believing there was a better future in advertising, Gary moved to the advertising department and even became advertising manager for a short time before being unceremoniously fired after the local paper sold to a larger media corporation. Nearly 20 years later, Gary still ranks the firing among the best things that have ever happened to him, as it forced him to explore the world of entrepreneurship. He built a successful print brokerage business from the ground up before venturing back into the publishing arena and launching the state's first travel magazine.

While technology has certainly impacted print journalism, especially newspapers, Gary believes that a colorful, glossy magazine equally divided between in-depth articles and stunning photographs will always have a place in the hearts, minds and coffee tables of readers. Gary has served three terms as president of the Missouri Travel Council, and has served on the state travel organization's board of directors for 12 years. His wife, Kim, teaches eight-grade literature at Kennett Middle School. They are the parents of two children, 12-year-old Matthew and 10-year-old Lily.

### **Best Character Sketch or Profile – Judge Susan Swartwout**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Driving Toward Yes by Dawn Downey

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Naturalist Rachel Carson by Veda Boyd Jones

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Jaunts with Dad by Debbie Fox

Honorable Mention: Kenneth Street, Fayette Pharmacist: A Lifetime of Helping People Get Well by Sylvia Forbes

**Dr. Susan Swartwout**, professor of English, teaches creative writing and publishing at Southeast Missouri State University where she also directs the University Press. She's the author of *Freaks* and *Uncommon Ground*, and co-author of *Hurricane Blues: Poems About Katrina and Rita*, *Real Things: An Anthology of Popular Culture in American Poetry*, and *A Student's Guide to Publishing*. Among her writing awards are the Hanks Award, the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer's Award for Poetry, the Davenport Award for fiction, a Ragdale Foundation Fellowship, and a Hedgebrook Writers Fellowship. She has published over 100 poems and essays in anthologies, collections, and literary journals.

### **Best Anthology – Judge Regina Williams**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Well Versed--Literary Works 2010, Columbia Chapter Missouri Writers Guild, edited by Judy Stock  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Symphony in a Minor Key--Science Fiction Tales of Time and Space H. G. Stratmann  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Sleep is For the Weak--edited by Rita Arens

**Regina Williams** has been the editor of *The Storyteller* magazine for fifteen years. *The Storyteller* now goes all over the world. She is also an award winning writer with numerous publications in magazines *Blackpowder Annual*, *Rural Arkansas*, *Black Petals* magazine, *Futures Mysterious Anthology* magazine, *Ozarks Monthly*, *Dead Mule School of Southern Literature*, *Midwest Literary Review* and *Shorelines Literary Magazine*, to name a few. She's also been published in *Writing on Walls* I, II, II Anthology, *Echoes* I, II, II, IV, V Anthology, *Voices* I, II, III Anthology, *Tales From the South Anthology*, *Cuivre River Anthology*, *Never Fear the Shadows Anthology*, and *Smile: American Short Humor Anthology*. Her suspense novel is with an agent in New York and she is currently working on another.

### **Best Humorous Article or Essay – Judge Beth Bartlett**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: My Green Acres – Jan Morrill  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Late Night Conversations – Diana West  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Kneads of a Fifty-Year-Old – Alice Muschany  
1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention: Old Osceola – Fred Farris  
2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention: Too Young for Old Age – Dawn Downey  
3<sup>rd</sup> Honorable Mention: High Maintenance Women – Pat Wahler

**Beth Bartlett** is a freelance writer and humorist. Her work has appeared in such publications as *Writer's Digest*, *mental\_floss*, *Country Extra*, *Meetings South* and *American Profile*. She writes a weekly humor horoscope column for the *Lovely County Citizen* newspaper and for her own site, [WisecrackZodiac.com](http://WisecrackZodiac.com). In her spare moments of sanity, she also contributes to the Bombeck-style humor site [AnArmyofErmas.com](http://AnArmyofErmas.com).

### **Best Paranormal or Mystery Story – Judge C. A. Neilson**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Fisher's Wife by Marybeth Niederkorn  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Collette's Conundrum by Janet Bettag  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Story of a Death by Gary Smothers  
Honorable Mention: Trick or Treat by Jane Hale

**C. A. Neilson** has written novels, non-fiction, feature length and short screenplays. A short film based on one of her stories, *The Botticelli Angel*, (for which she also wrote the script) was independently produced in 1991, and another short, *Alice's Adventures in Reality*, debuted at the Dallas Video Festival in 1998. She currently owns and operates a Victorian bed and breakfast in Fulton, Missouri, with the help of two very spoiled cats, Jack Sparrow and Boo Radley. She still hopes to someday be on the Oprah show.

## 2011 Chapter Contest Categories

### Saturday Writers' – Flash Fiction: Judge Cathy C. Hall

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: "In God We Trust" to John Zerr  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: "The Numbness" to Gary Smothers  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: "General Chandler's War" to Pat Wahler  
Honorable Mention:  
"Sharkey's Back in Town" to Linda Fisher  
"The (Elliptical) End" to Henry G. Stratmann

**Cathy C. Hall** is a humor writer from the warm and wonderful South. She's published in both adult and children's markets, in fiction and non-fiction. She's pretty crazy about short fiction, especially flash, though she's worked herself up to writing a funny, paranormal YA novel. Find out more at Cathy C.'s Hall of Fame where she blogs about writing in general, or Finders and Keepers, where she gets specific about children's writing.

Hall of Fame: [cathychall.blogspot.com](http://cathychall.blogspot.com) Finders & Keepers: [cathychall.wordpress.com](http://cathychall.wordpress.com)

### Springfield Writers' Guild – Form Poetry: Judge Michael Burns

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: "Villanelle for the Status Quo" to Susan W. Peters  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: "Kaffeeklatsch" to Judy A. Stock  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: "A Mary Mind" to Reta Stewart Allen

**Michael Burns** is a professor emeritus at Missouri State University in Springfield who now lives in Louisville, KY. A recipient of an NEA Fellowship and a Missouri Writers' Biennial Award, his poetry collections are: *When All Else Failed*, *And As For Darkness*, *The Secret Names* and *It Will Be All Right in the Morning*. His formal poems also appear in journals: *The Paris Review*, *Southern Review*, *Western Humanities Review*, *32 Poems*, *ABZ*, and *Measure*. Burns also edited *The Panther: Posthumous Poems by James Whitehead*; *For, From, About James T. Whitehead*; *Discovery and Reminiscence: Essays on the Poetry of Mona Van Duyn*, and *Miller Williams and the Poetry of the Particular*.

### Columbia Chapter of Missouri Writers' Guild – Free Verse Poetry: Judge Walter Bargaen

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: "Morning Service" by Susan Peters  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: "August Hayfield" by Marilyn K. Smith  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: "The New Kitten" by Marcia Gaye  
1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention: "Blizzard 2011" by Evelyn Aholt  
2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention: "Gardener" by Judy Stock  
3<sup>rd</sup> Honorable Mention: "Closure" by Claudia Mundell

**Walter Bargaen's** poems and fictions have appeared in over one hundred magazines, including *American Literary Review*, *American Letters & Commentary*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Georgia Review*, *International Quarterly*, *Missouri Review*, *New Letters*, *New Novel Review*, *Pleiades*, *Poetry Northwest*, *River Styx*, *Seneca Review*, *Sycamore Review*, and *Witness*. He is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts poetry fellowship

(1991); winner of the Quarter After Eight Prose Prize (1996), the Hanks Prize (1996), and the Chester H. Jones Foundation poetry prize (1997).

### **Southeast Missouri Writers' Guild – Short Story: Judge Lindsay Walker**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: “Darcy’s Ghost” Dianna Graveman

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: “The Delivery” Gary Smothers

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: “The Red Kimono” Jan Morrill

Honorable Mention: Rita Arens - “Some Kind of Samson”

**Lindsay Walker** recently earned her Ph.D. in English at the University of Southern Mississippi. Winner of the Center for Writers 2009 Joan Johnson Award for Fiction, she served as Poetry Editor for the literary journal, *Juked*, from 2005 - 2010. Her manuscript, *The Josephine Letters*, was a finalist for the 2009 Walt Whitman Award, and her poetry has appeared recently, or is forthcoming, in: *West Branch*, *The Southeast Review*, *Gulf Stream*, *The Southern Quarterly*, and *The Southern Poetry Anthology*. Her play, “Six Dead Bodies Duct Taped to a Merry-Go-Round” debuted in Salt Lake City and has productions recently, or forthcoming, in Portland, Anchorage, and the Last Frontier Theatre Conference in Valdez, Alaska.

### **St. Louis Writers' Guild - What Does it Take to Make You Happy?: Judge Bobbie Craig**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: "Pearls of Happiness" by Marcia Gaye

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: "Bring on the Rain" by Alice Muschany

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: "Happiness is a Great Gadget" by Debbie Fox

1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention: "The Gift Wrapped Up to Look Like a Severance Package" by Deborah Schott

2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention: "Happiness is All in My Mouth" by Linda O’Connell

**Bobbie Craig** is a retired Special Education teacher with an undergraduate degree from Southeast Missouri State University and a Master’s from Webster University. During her teaching career, Bobbie was awarded an Emerson Electric Company Award for Excellence in Teaching, in 1996. She is a member of, and has served as secretary for the Writer’s Society of Jefferson County. An award winning poet, she continues to maintain membership in the Missouri State Poetry Society, and in the On the Edge chapter of that organization. Bobbie served for five years as president of On the Edge, and enjoys working to co-edit the organization’s annual anthology, featuring poetry and short stories. Writing poetry, short stories and memoirs, photography, reading and gardening are among her interests. Both Bobbie and her husband enjoy the Rams and lake vacations with their family.