



2013  
**Royal Palm  
Literary Awards**



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**PUBLISHED BOOK OF THE YEAR**

***The Legend of Anne Southern* by J. Rivers Hodge  
(Women's Fiction)**

War is hell. A young mother, the pampered wife of a plantation owner, copes with the harsh effects of war. An ambitious butcher brings terror to civilians in southeast Georgia.

*J. Rivers Hodge is a native Floridian and a graduate of the university of Florida College of Pharmacy. He lives in Jacksonville with his wonderful wife and writing partner, Brenda.*

**UNPUBLISHED BOOK OF THE YEAR**

***Cora Pooler* by Dottie Rexford (Women's Fiction)**

Seeking to find the whereabouts of the baby she abandoned twenty years ago and solve the mystery of her sister's death, she returns to her Amish community.

*Dottie Rexford is the author of May Snow and Songs in the Night, second place winner in the 2011 Royal Palm Literary Awards competition. Dottie lives in Avon Park, Florida.*

**THE DAHRIS CLAIR MEMORIAL AWARD**

***Thornetta: The Musical* by Bridget Callaghan and Jeff Swesky (Screen Play)**

When a wayward angel asks for a second chance to prove her guardian abilities, she's given an assignment that seems insurmountable. Can she save their soul, and her own?

Author and Clinical Social Worker, Bridget Callaghan, has worked as a freelance writer, magazine editor and recently co-authored, *The Method Writers* (2012). She is currently working on her first documentary.

Jeff Swesky is an award-winning author and ghostwriter, and recent Amazon bestseller. He writes dark and subversive literary fiction, where the characters balance a fine line between redemption and destruction.

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## Book-Length Fiction

### Fantasy (Published)

#### FIRST PLACE

***The Second Draeken War* by Ben Hale.** Talents may be given, but Greatness is chosen.

### Historical Fiction (Published)

#### FIRST PLACE

***The Legend of Anne Southern* by J. Rivers Hodge.** War is hell. A young mother, the pampered wife of a plantation owner, copes with the harsh effects of war. An ambitious butcher brings terror to civilians in southeast Georgia.

### Historical Fiction (Unpublished)

#### FIRST PLACE

***The Sorrow Stone* by Jane Ann McLachlan.** In 1170 France, a grieving young noblewoman seeks to alleviate her sorrow by following a medieval superstition and selling it to a travelling peddler in exchange for her marriage ring.

#### SECOND PLACE

***For Their Own Good* by Bradette Michel.** In 1857 Dr. Adam Fletcher faces events that change him forever when he travels west to become medical doctor at the Illinois State Hospital for the Insane.

### Humor / Satire [Fiction] (Unpublished)

#### FIRST PLACE

***Never Ride the Flying Monkeys in a Hurricane* by Ann Meier.** Trapped in a theme park during a hurricane, a woman with an undeserved boss-killer reputation struggles to prove she didn't murder her current boss.

### Mainstream (Published)

#### FIRST PLACE

***Lakeside* by Rodney Romig.** Lakeside, a small plains town where people and ideals collide with the steamy impact of a splitting atom, questioning where there is such a thing as small town values.

### Mainstream (Unpublished)

#### FIRST PLACE

***Saving Surgeons* by Dean C. Lohse.** In the highly intense world of neurosurgery, lives are always at risk. But now Dr. Benson's formidable medical skills are only a small part of what he needs to regain his soul.

#### SECOND PLACE

***Ospreys Mate For Life* by Ted Reynolds.** Thirteen-year-old Alex is lost over the side on a sailing trip to the Florida Keys. James and Susan struggle to cope with their loss in very different ways.

### Mystery (Published)

#### FIRST PLACE

***Death at the Downs* by Derek Alexander.** Insecure, handicapped, and virtually friendless, Cathy Vega just wants to find her missing friend, but her search lands her in the middle of a multi-billion dollar political inferno.

### Mystery (Published) continued

#### SECOND PLACE

***Champagne for Buzzards* by Phyllis Smallman.** High tension, wonderful descriptions of the Florida countryside, and a very real, heartbreaking theme of man's inhumanity toward man makes this book a must read.

### Mystery (Unpublished)

#### FIRST PLACE

***New Smyrna Swing* by D. D. Queens.** When Florida P.I. Jenna Palmer discovers her ex dead inside her house, she has to solve her toughest case—or she could end up in jail for the crime herself.

#### SECOND PLACE

***Cemetery Plot* by Tom Bender.** A cynical reporter, Brian Morrison, uncovers an astonishing World War II story. He falls for his colleague, beautiful and clever Lee Ann Thomas. Murder closes in. They survive and prevail.

#### THIRD PLACE

***Deviant Acts* by John J. White.** After a dishonorable discharge from the Marines, heroin junkie and overall loser, Jackson Hurst, finds himself employed as a Private Investigator in Vermont on the trail of his cousin's kidnappers.

### Inspirational Romance (Unpublished)

#### FIRST PLACE

***Hope and Pride* by Kristen Stieffel.** Blayse and Slider start out as friends, and become business partners. But to embrace a future together, each must let go of the past.

### Romance (Published)

#### FIRST PLACE

***Rescuing Lacey* by Rebecca Heflin.** A battle-scarred photojournalist must confront a past traumatic event and acknowledge her vulnerable side if she is to rediscover her soul and accept the love that will heal her.

### Science Fiction (Published)

#### FIRST PLACE

***Perfect Betrayal* by Jade Kerrion.** Danyael Sabre, an alpha empath, is stalked by the military that covets his ability to kill, not heal. He can betray his values and abandon the path of the healer, or wait to be betrayed, not by enemies, but by his friends.

### Science Fiction (Unpublished)

#### FIRST PLACE

***Outpost Earth* by L. H. Davis.** When a Pangaeon spacecraft lands on prehistoric Earth, the crew befriends a family of young natives, and discovers they worship a highly advanced robot.

Thriller / Suspense (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Crosses to Bear* by M.W. Gordon.** Montana Fly fishing guide Macduff Brooks is former Florida law professor Maxwell Hunt hiding from two who would kill him. One after another women who shuttle his boat are found dead on his boat trailer. There are at least five suspected killers.

SECOND PLACE

***A Case of Revenge* by Darryl Bollinger.** A Case of Revenge is a medical thriller about a computer geek out to avenge the death of his mother in a southwest Florida hospital

THIRD PLACE

***The Medicine Game* by Darryl Bollinger.** The Medicine Game is a medical thriller about a new heart drug that is found to be ineffective and the conspiracy to cover it up.

Thriller / Suspense (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***Drawn and Buried* by Dana Summers.** A political cartoonist is haunted by his past while a killer uses his cartoons to stage murders in the present.

SECOND PLACE

***Between a Rock and a Wet Place* by Donna Meredith.** When hydrogeology student Summer Cassidy discovers unacceptable levels of contaminants in Isaac Harewood's multi-million dollar water wells, she sets off a chain of events she never could have imagined.

THIRD PLACE

***Sitka Annie* by Richard Newell Smith.** Sitka Annie is hot for revenge. Then Wally, the computer nerd, cools her down. He persuades her that revenge taken cold tastes better and lasts a lot longer.

Women's Fiction (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***The Twelfth Child* by Bette Lee Crosby.** Twelfth Child tells of a young girl's quest for womanhood and the struggles she encounters after leaving her Shenandoah Valley home, the story is one of trust and undying friendship.

Women's Fiction (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***Cora Pooler* by Dottie Rexford.** Seeking to find the whereabouts of the baby she abandoned twenty years ago and solve the mystery of her sister's death, Cora Pooler returns to her Amish community.

SECOND PLACE

***Blood Under the Snow* by Melissa Kosciuszko.** Things aren't what they seem. Don't get involved. Celisse does not heed the note Cullen slips her as he's being arrested. Soon she finds herself a prime suspect for a murder.

Women's Fiction (Unpublished) continued

THIRD PLACE

***The Proposal* by Marti Green.** A young woman accepts an unusual marriage proposal and embarks on a journey that changes her life forever.

**JUVENILE FICTION**

Children's Picture Books (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Sofia's Flower* by Julie Anne Wight.** When a young flower fairy chooses the flower to represent her, everyone's surprised and amazed by her choice.

Children's Picture Books (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***As Wrong As Wrong Can Be* by Cynthia Williams.** A little girl named, Aspen, who thinks being named after a tree is stupid—because trees aren't "real" like people—discovers that she is as wrong as wrong can be.

SECOND PLACE

***The Frozen Floppies* by John Hope.** A freezing storm turns some of the Floppyland residents into flopcicles. The Floppies must work together to overcome the impregnable floppy lines to save their fellow Floppies.

THIRD PLACE

***Did You Do Your Homework Last Night?* by Millie Richmond.** Just when you thought you'd heard them all, here come more "off-the-wall" attempts from youngsters to explain why last night's homework wasn't done. Get your smiles ready.

Chapter Book (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***Huckleberry Heart* by Anne Hawkinson.** Paddy and his Grandpa Irl always pick huckleberries together, but when Grandpa falls ill, Paddy (despite his handicap) displays courage and determination and delivers a special gift to him.

Middle-Grade Fiction (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***Kobi: Memoirs of a Mustang* by Heather Hamel.** Most wild mustangs only want three things in life: food, water, and blend in with the herd. Kobi is not your average mustang.

SECOND PLACE

***Baywich Harbor* by Jill Andrews.** Mystery filled with magical realism and the magic of a first kiss.

THIRD PLACE

***No Good* by John Hope.** Twelve-age-old Johnny "No Good" gains a new brother, formal orphan Josh, and is tested how to be a true friend when he learns a hidden truth of Josh's past.

Young Adult (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Earth-Sim* by Jade Kerrion.** Jem Moran and Kir Davos are partners in the world simulation program; their opposing management styles will either save or doom our planet. Either way, you finally have someone to blame for the state Earth is in.

SECOND PLACE

***When the Silence Ends* by Jade Kerrion.** Dee wants her twin brother, Dum, to break free from the trauma in their childhood. In her quest to help Dum become normal, Dee will finally learn what it means to be extraordinary.

Young Adult (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***ThruTheLight.com* by Mark McWaters.** ThruTheLight.com gave Benjj a chance to apologize to his dead mother for being a total asshole the day she died. But was that her or something else online? ...Something evil?

SECOND PLACE

***Then You Can See the Sky* by Claire M. Sloan.** Japanese--American Mariko's world explodes when her cousin moves in with them after his parents die in a crash. She learns to cope with family dynamics and accepting her ethnicity.

THIRD PLACE

***Cross Over* by Jane Ellen Freeman.** Three teens find their lives intertwined through their unusual ability to cross in alternate realities.

Screen Play (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***Thornetta: The Musical* by Bridget Callaghan and Jeff Swesky.** When a wayward angel asks for a second chance to prove her guardian abilities, she's given an assignment that seems insurmountable. Can she save their soul, and her own?

Tele Play (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***12 Days* by Julie Anne Wight.** When ALEX's absentee father shows up then disappears again. Alex must follow cryptic clues and evade the assassin after his family in order to discover his father's secret – time travel.

**SHORT FICTION**

Flash Fiction (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***I Do* by Linda Barbosa.** Two little words can change your life. Karen finds strength in embracing what she feared the most – the ending of her 30-year marriage.

SECOND PLACE

***Finale* by Kate Maier.** Is it a practical joke taken too far, or a murder in her own bathroom? A young woman can't tell whether her husband has played his final act.

THIRD PLACE

***Sorting Memories* by Lois Patton.** Routine task leads to poignant discovery.

Short Story (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Becky's Story* by Laura Andrews.** Her family - left to fend for her younger siblings, Becky rescues the brother she thought had abandoned them and finds the measure of her courage in the process.

Short Story (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***'Til Death...?* by Mark McWaters.** Belinda loses her father to a sudden and tragic brain hemorrhage but her mother refuses to let her husband go.

SECOND PLACE

***Jeremiah's Orchard* by Mary Flynn.** In recalling the catastrophe that forever changed his beloved town of Early, Will Hendrik introduces us to the father whose breathtaking sacrifice made him a legend.

THIRD PLACE

***The Proposal* by Lynn Ullin.** Aaron waited too long to propose to Jessie and he knows another man got there before him but he is determined to speak his mind anyway. Will it change things?

Novella (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***The Necromancer's Apprentice* by R.M. Prioleau.** Having fallen victim to a family tragedy, a young woman is saved by and apprentices under a mysterious man with a hidden agenda.

SECOND PLACE

***The Ixex Trophy* by John Cammalleri.** During WWII in Italian--occupied Corsica, a young Italian soldier finds love, adventure, and intrigue, while Italy faces a crucial turning point in the war.

THIRD PLACE

***Cupid's Christmas* by Bette Lee Crosby.** Told by the Love Master himself, Cupid's Christmas is a heartwarming story of finding true love and second chance romance.

Novella (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***A Different Death* by Laura Pelner McCarthy.** What's left when the last of your lovers has died? A lot of life. Also friendships, thoughts about death, and startling changes of scenery.

SECOND PLACE

***The Ice Man* by Virginia Nygard.** A jobless, middle-aged man, reduced to living in an adults-only trailer park with his ailing mother, discovers no secrets are safe from the prying eyes of nosy neighbors.

THIRD PLACE

***Simon's Wondrous Garden* by Doug Alderson.** After a car accident, profound visions and dreams inspire lawyer Simon McCallister to convert his manicured suburban yard into a vegetable garden, to the consternation of his wife and neighbors.

## BOOK-LENGTH NONFICTION

### Autobiography / Memoir (Published)

#### FIRST PLACE

***Big Sister: A Journey of Genes and Heart* by Anne Martin Powell.** Anne adores her ebullient brother Bob, but when she learns she's pregnant and a carrier for his rare genetic condition, she has a heart-wrenching decision to make.

#### SECOND PLACE

***At the End of the Road* by Kimberly M. Smith.** A hardcore addict in need of a miracle finds recovery from drugs, alcohol, and chaos in a twelve-step program and shares a message of hope and God's grace.

#### THIRD PLACE

***Entangled* by Natalie Monroe.** Natalie Monroe thinks the worst thing in her life is being alone. That is, until she meets Daniel Weaver, a sociopath and a master manipulator. Natalie is in over her head.

### TRAVEL (PUBLISHED)

#### FIRST PLACE

***The Great Florida Seminole Trail* by Doug Alderson.** The Great Florida Seminole Trail is the first comprehensive illustrated travel guide to Florida's historic and cultural sites that directly relate to the Seminole Indians.

#### SECOND PLACE

***Wild Florida Waters* by Doug Alderson.** In these exciting paddling adventures, Wild Florida Waters places Florida's unsurpassed beauty and wildlife in the forefront, from the maze-like Ten Thousand Islands to the spring fed Ichetucknee River.

### SHORT NONFICTION

### Creative Nonfiction (Unpublished)

#### FIRST PLACE

***Your Secret's Safe With Me* by Elizabeth Nebergall.** Secrets. Secrets kept and secrets told. A little girl discovers how secrets change lives forever.

#### SECOND PLACE

***Day Off* by Joan Levy.** Hannah waits alone in the lobby of her friend's apartment building. A young man enters from a darkened side entrance. She scoffs at the notion he's up to no good.

#### THIRD PLACE

***O! Christmas Tree* by Joan Harris.** Humorous look at life and fears as a first grader steals a doll from her classroom dollhouse. Decades later she discovers why.

### Essay (Unpublished)

#### FIRST PLACE

***Chicken Fried Steak* by Victoria Humphrey.** If the way to a man's heart is through his stomach, then making "Chicken Fried Steak" is a sure---fire way to rule over a pack of sons.

## POETRY

### Poetry (Published)

#### FIRST PLACE

***Florida Allegory in Four Triolets* by Donna S. Fernandez.** Using the classic French triolet as its form, "Florida Allegory" depicts this gun-shaped State, with triple-repeating lines, as part holiday, vegetation, wildlife, and the hurricane's mean season.

#### SECOND PLACE

***Today* by Donna S. Fernandez.** A spring day in the garden accompanied by birds singing in flirtation, two dogs in the shade, and a Muscovy mother towing her brood down a canal—until the unthinkable happens.

### Poetry (Unpublished)

#### FIRST PLACE

***Writing Memoirs* by Maxie Steer.** Writing Memoirs discusses the danger of crossing the line into fiction when writing autobiographically.

#### SECOND PLACE

***Battle of Haitin* by Anne Reynolds.** Saracens and Crusaders met in battle on the plains between the Sea of Galilee and the Mount of Haitin. The Crusaders defeat led to the loss of Jerusalem.

#### THIRD PLACE

***Crucible* by Gayle H. Swift.** Retrospective thoughts from a woman who survived cancer in her early teens.