

Short Story Writing Contest to Benefit Libraries ROCC

The Seaside Public Library Foundation will be publishing its second annual short story anthology to support the Libraries Reading Outreach program, which provides library cards to children in Clatsop County. Writers are invited to submit a short story (**1500 words, maximum**) with a theme of books or libraries.

Winning entries will be featured at the Libraries ROCC Fundraiser on Sunday, April 14 at the Seaside Convention Center, where writers will have the opportunity to read an excerpt from their story and speak about their writing process.

Writers should include at least two characters in the story who event attendees can bid on to name for the final version of the story that will be included in the anthology. For example, last year, attendees had the opportunity to bid on the name of a ghost in a story about a haunted library.

If your work is accepted, we'll ask for a 100-word bio and author photo to be included in promotional materials.

The deadline for entries is Friday, February 1, 2019. Stories must be submitted electronically via email to librariesreadingoutreach@gmail.com and writers will be notified of receipt once a \$10 entry fee has been submitted via check to Libraries ROCC at 1131 Broadway, Seaside, OR 97138. Stories should be submitted as Word documents and should be family friendly.

Submissions will be evaluated by a panel of local judges including Ken Heman, Melissa Eskue Ousley, and Deb Vanasse. Winning entries will be announced on Friday, February 22.

Ken Heman is a Visitor Information Specialist with the City of Seaside Visitors Bureau, on the board of the Seaside Museum and Historical Society, a member of the City of Seaside Safety Committee, Tourism Advisory Council, and a former board member with the Seaside Chamber of Commerce. Ken and his wife Sandra have lived in Seaside since 2010.

Melissa Eskue Ousley is an award-winning author living with her family, dog, and piranha on the north coast of Oregon. Her suspense novel, *Pitcher Plant*, won a 2018 Independent Publisher Book Award and was a finalist for a 2018 Next Generation Indie Book Award. It is set in Seaside, Oregon and features murder and restless spirits. Her story, *43 Pearls*, won an award with The Short Story Project. Melissa's short stories have been included in *The North Coast Squid*, *Rain Magazine*, and other anthologies.

Deb Vanasse is the author of seventeen books with six different publishers. Among the most recent are *Write Your Best Book*, a practical guide to writing books that rise above the rest; *Cold Spell*, a novel that "captures the harsh beauty of the terrain as well as the strain of self-doubt and complicated family bonds"; and a biography, *Wealth Woman*, a True West "Best of the West" selection. After thirty-six years in Alaska, she now lives on the north coast of Oregon, where she continues to write while doing freelance editing, coaching, and writing instruction.

For submission questions contact:
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