**PUBLISHED BOOK OF THE YEAR**

*Ordinary People: Extraordinary Heroes* by Will G. Merrill Jr. (History)

During the First Battle in the War against Terror, ordinary New Yorkers became extraordinary heroes.

Will G. Merrill Jr. graduated from West Point in 1958. He served 31 years in the Army, including in Germany, Vietnam, Korea and Greece. In writing this book he interviewed sixty firefighters, police officers and civilians directly involved with 9/11.

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**UNPUBLISHED BOOK OF THE YEAR**

*The Cold Season* by William C. Walker (Romance)

A woman's journey of discovery and redemption.

William C. Walker started his writing career as a columnist for a regional newspaper. During a thirty-five year span as a military pilot and commercial airline captain he began writing short stories and novels. He lives on Florida's Treasure Coast with his wife and a fluffy dog that likes him.

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**THE DAHRIS CLAIR MEMORIAL AWARD**

*Kidnapped* by Maria Hammarblad (Screen Play)

Patricia is abducted by mistake. Lost in space, she must use every ounce of her humanity to find the way home.

Originally born in Sweden, Maria moved to Florida late 2008. Today, she lives in the Tampa Bay area with her husband Mike and three rescue dogs. She is most known for writing science fiction romance, but also produces romantic thrillers.
**Book-Length Fiction**

**Historical Fiction (Published)**

**FIRST PLACE**

**Historical Fiction (Unpublished)**

**FIRST PLACE**
*The Lantern* by Joanne Lewis. A Renaissance mystery, takes the reader along two continents and over five hundred years as a 21st century American woman searches to learn the truth about the 15th century mysterious Italian girl who dared to compete with the most famous artists of the Renaissance.

**SECOND PLACE**
*Nisei* by John J. White. A few months before his death in 1953, Hideo “Bobby” Takahashi, dictates his memoir to his lovely companion.

**THIRD PLACE**
*In the Hands of the Wolf* by Raymond Gustavson. Set in Clarksville, TN, and Washington, DC, this historical novel covers the highly traumatic period February through May 1865.

**Humor / Satire [Fiction] (Unpublished)**

**FIRST PLACE**
*Never Bet Your Future on a Guy Called Weasel* by Ann Meier. A young woman returns to her hometown to settle an estate, but finds her attorney murdered and lying on a yearbook picture of her best friend.

**Mainstream (Unpublished)**

**FIRST PLACE**
*The Bully Route Home* by D. L. Havlin. The struggles of a young boy to avoid the bullying of a dominant antagonist, sets off a chain of events culminating in explosive racial tension in the rural South of the 40’s…and teaches him the value of every human being.

**SECOND PLACE**
*Andrew Comes Home* by Philip L. Levin. A family shattered is by the death of the teenage daughter. The father and son move from Chicago to the Mississippi coast seeking healing while adjusting to the Southern culture shock.

**THIRD PLACE**
*’Nam World* by Jeff Boyle. The story of a theme park and the real and imaginary world of a Vietnam veteran struggling against demons to follow his heart.

**Mystery (Published)**

**FIRST PLACE**
*The Edge of Normal* by Carla Norton. She made headlines when she was kidnapped at 12 and again when she was rescued at 16, but now Reeve LeClaire guards her privacy and lives alone, a damaged young woman of 22 who has a new job, a new name, and an excellent psychiatrist.

**SECOND PLACE**
*Deadly Sacrifices* by Bridges DelPonte. When a soccer mom is brutally murdered in a suburban Boston church, new homicide prosecutor Marguerite “Monty” Montez risks her career and her life trying to prove that police nabbed the wrong man.

**THIRD PLACE**
*Judas Kisses* by Laurie Solheim. Someone intends to make Beth Stanton’s life miserable when Wall Street greed breeds revenge.

**Romance (Unpublished)**

**FIRST PLACE**

**Science Fiction (Unpublished)**

**FIRST PLACE**
*Stone Perfect* by Chris Coward. With the help of two small stones, an emotionally battered wife finds the “easy” way to the life—and love—of her dreams.

**Thriller / Suspense (Published)**

**FIRST PLACE**
*Tiger Paw* by Charles A. Cornell. FBI agent Scott Forrester must make a deal with the Devil to thwart the plans of a demonic East Indian cult as it unleashes an elusive assassin to dismantle a corrupt Wall Street empire, one body at a time.

**SECOND PLACE**
*The Hitman’s Lover* by Richard Newell Smith. After his Aunt Maude guns down a policeman, Jack Scully finds himself up against crooked cops and a crime boss – but nothing as beguiling and dangerous as Angela D’Annunzio.
Thriller / Suspense (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

*Place of Fear* by Ken Pelham. Deep in the rainforest, a prisoner languishes in a lightless cell, the clock ticking toward his execution. His friends mount a desperate rescue, but will it be too late?

SECOND PLACE

*Francis’ Flowers* by D. L. Havlin. A rural Georgia community braces for the presumed arrival of a serial killer unaware a more sinister danger already lives among them.

THIRD PLACE

*Grind His Bones* by Richard Newell Smith. For Jack Scully, pit bulls and sociopaths aren’t half as noxious as his cousin Hughie. Now he’s risking his life to save Hughie from being framed for a double murder.

Juvenile Fiction

Children’s Picture Books (Published)

FIRST PLACE

*The King of Fish* by Darrell House. Young Ray dreams of fishing. In this catch & release story, told in verse, our wheelchair bound hero comes face to face with the King of Fish; displaying the wisdom and strength found in the heart of a child.

SECOND PLACE

*Suki Saluki: Horse Farm Hero* by M. R. Street. Suki is a Saluki dog living on a racehorse training farm. Although she has a very important job – taking care of three orphan kittens – she wants a bigger job.

THIRD PLACE

*Dragonella’s Striped Umbrella at the Playground* by Gayle Swift. In the midst of an unexpected playground storm, Dragonella and Jollyette share a sheltered spot. They trade the loneliness of one to forge a friendship that blooms like a garden in the sun.

Children’s Picture Books (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

*Suki Saluki: Horse Farm Hero* by M. R. Street. Suki is a Saluki dog living on a racehorse training farm. Although she has a very important job – taking care of three orphan kittens – she wants a bigger job.

SECOND PLACE

*Rectangle Jangle* by Gayle Swift. Poetry and geometry pair in an unusual picture book from the “Shape of Discovery” series. “Rectangles are sturdy, reliable shapes.”

THIRD PLACE

*An Angel Torched My Homework and Other Lie* by Carol Sipes. Sixteen-year-old Carrie loves attending the nation’s first high school to admit angels, zombies, werewolves, and vampires—until a mysterious attack makes her question whether they’re as harmless as she believes.

Screenplay (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

*Kidnapped* by Maria Hammarblad. Patricia is abducted by mistake. Lost in space, she must use every ounce of her humanity to find the way home.

Short Fiction

Flash Fiction (Published)

FIRST PLACE

*Distorted Reflections* by Amber Garr. A young girls’ struggle with self-image is captured in her reflection.

SECOND PLACE

*100 Needles* by Paige L. Scott. The elders of a fishing village fashion their life stories into a quilt...and lose a little bit of themselves in the process.

THIRD PLACE

*A Leap of Faith* by Amber Garr. A young girl misjudges the extent of her boyfriend’s commitment to forever.

Flash Fiction (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

*Dial Tone* by Gayle Swift. A divorce hearing derails when the spouse is a “no show.” When his daughter telephones, his threat of violence is punctuated by the ominous drone of a dial tone.

SECOND PLACE

*One Last Time* by Jan Evans. A P-38 pilot is saved by a mysterious woman. Or maybe it was only a dream.

THIRD PLACE

*An Accidental Death* by Phyllis Smallman. A P-38 pilot is saved by a mysterious woman. Or maybe it was only a dream.
**BOOK-LENGTH NONFICTION**

**FIRST PLACE**

*Life in the Land of IS by Bette Lee Crosby.* In this amazing memoir, Lani Deauville, the world’s longest living quadriplegic proves that the worst handicap you can have is a lack of belief in yourself.

**SECOND PLACE**

*Baseball’s Finest Moments by Jack L. Hayes.* He didn’t even remotely know anyone connected with major league baseball. Yet this fourteen-year-old had a dream and on Opening Day, 1953, that dream transformed into an almost unbelievable story as he trotted onto the baseball field wearing the batboy uniform of the world-champion New York Yankees.

**Third Place**

*Ordinary People: Extraordinary Heroes by Will G. Merrill Jr.* During the First Battle in the War against Terror, ordinary New Yorkers became extraordinary heroes.

**Essay (Unpublished)**

*Quibbles ‘n Bits by Barbara Samuels.* This author believes there should be distinct names for people and pets. Join the movement to stop calling our dogs, Bill and our children, Fifi.

**Creative Nonfiction (Unpublished)**

*To the Top by Joan Levy.* A father takes his family to the Empire State Building to fulfill a promise requested on a postcard. But odd circumstances and the determination of three year-old child seem to derail the promise and visit.

**Short Story (Published)**

**First Place**

*Jesus or Juju by Roger Poppen.* Sometimes, miracles do happen.

**Second Place**

*Jack Daniels And Tea by Phyllis Smallman.* One night in a bar things get out of control for bartender Sherri Travis and she finds when there’s money at stake no one can be trusted.

**Short Story (Unpublished)**

**First Place**

*A Flutter of Wings by Victor DiGenti.* Life seems terribly unfair to a boy of seven after his mother leaves. But little things —like a simple feather — can lead to understanding and redemption.

**Second Place**

*A Shadow the Length of a Lifetime by John J. White.* A nine-year-old boy learns a harsh lesson about life while adjusting to a new home, a new school, and new friends.

**Novella (Unpublished)**

**First Place**

*Restoration by Laura Pelner McCarthy.* Against the backdrop of the 1980 Mariel boatlift and the rebirth of Miami Beach’s Art Deco District, a gentle, diffident Midwestern architect and a free-spirited Miami radio host engage in a correspondence of increasing intimacy and growing self-knowledge.

**Second Place**

*Solitary by Bradette Michel.* Long-time criminal offender Jack Henderson gets a second chance when he is unexpectedly released from prison. Ruthie, his six-year old niece, helps him find the redemption that has always eluded him.

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2012 Royal Palm Literary Awards Competition

Florida Writers Association

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POETRY

Poetry (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE
Change by Robin Thomas. Some call it fear of settling down; some call it wanderlust; some call it exciting. I call it a way of life.

SECOND PLACE
Petal Fists by Donna S. Fernandez. The poem is from a collection of poems and essays on the marvels and mysteries of South Florida’s natural world observed from the poet’s canal-backed home.

THIRD PLACE
Greedy by Maxie Steer. A child who, upon overhearing arguments, learns hurtful words and adds them to his vocabulary but soon realizes his limited understanding and shame in eavesdropping.