Honing Harold (Hal) Grutzmacher

The Peninsula Pulse’s annual Hal Prize issue honors the late Harold (Hal) Grutzmacher, a man whose passion for writing and teaching the craft of writing spanned his lifetime. While his specialty was the English Romantic period, particularly William Wordsworth, he also loved reading (and re-reading) James Bond novels. His greatest passion, however, was teaching writing. As an English professor at Carthage College (then in Carthage, Ill.), Knox College, and Parsons College he influenced hundreds of undergraduate writers. Later, as vice president for academic affairs at the University of Tampa and dean of students at Beloit College, he continued to teach the freshman English courses, though these courses were far removed from his job description.

He was also acquainted with many writers and poets, often acting as the faculty liaison, spending time and sharing meals with such authors as Philip Roth, Goggin (Carolyn Arnett), Philip Appleman, and Wallace Stegner. His own writing appeared in numerous publications and included two volumes of poetry, Giants of My World, published by Golden Quill Press (Sibbitt’s) and Generations, published by Spoon River Poetry Press (and co-authored with his son, Stephen). In Door County, Wisconsin, he and his wife, Marge, opened Passtimes Books, where he enjoyed discussing literature with other avid readers. And he continued teaching writing, both at The Clearing Folk School in Ellison Bay, Wisconsin and Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. Several of these students later brought him manuscripts which he helped edit into finished books.

His encouragement and gentle, though pointed, criticism have included Wisconsin and Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. Several of these students continued teaching writing, both at The Clearing Folk School in Ellison Bay, Wisconsin and Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. Several of these students later brought him manuscripts which he helped edit into finished books.

The contest offers publication in the Peninsula Pulse’s annual literary issue, reaching a readership of 18,000. Cash awards of up to $150, a week stay at Write On, Door County (a literary retreat located in the heart of the Door Peninsula), a class at Peninsula School of Art (a nationally recognized year-round education for artists and art appreciation), and other prizes will be awarded.

The Hal Prize is presented in collaboration with Write On, Door County, a nonprofit organization promoting writing and reading to year-round and seasonal residents in the county.

The deadline for entry is Monday, May 1, 2017. All submissions will be accepted digitally. For complete submission guidelines and to submit your creative work, visit TheHalPulse.com.

2017 JUDGES BIOS

Fiction: David Haynes

David Haynes is a Professor of English at Southern Methodist University and since 1996 has taught with the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College. He is the author of seven novels for adults and five books for younger readers. His most recent novel is A Star in the Face of the Sky. He is the founder and director of Kimbilo.

Nonfiction: Erika Janik

Erika Janik is a historian, author and the Executive Producer of Wisconsin Life on Wisconsin Public Radio. She is the author of the award-winning books The Pittsburgh Pistols and Petetics: 175 Years of Lady Detectives in Fact and Fiction, A Short History of Wisconsin, and Wisconsin: A History of the First 150 Years. She has worked as a professional writer for Wisconsin Life, Wisconsin, Midwest Living, and The Onion, among others. She holds master’s degrees in American history and journalism from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Originally from Redmond, Washington, she now knows more about Wisconsin than she ever thought possible.

Photography: Kevin J. Miyazaki

Kevin J. Miyazaki’s artwork addresses issues of family history and ethnicity. His photographs have been shown nationally, and in Wisconsin at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, St. Norbert College and the James Wurcs In Gallery in Madison. Photographs from his exhibition, Perimeter, commissioned by the Haggerty Museum of Art at Marquette University, were published as a monograph by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press in 2014. Miyazaki’s portrait, food and travel assignments have taken him to 30 states and more than 20 countries, for clients including The New York Times, AARP, Travel + Leisure, Architectural Digest and Marta Stewart Living.

The Poetry Editors of cream city review

cream city review, started in 1975 by Mary Zane Allen, is Milwaukee’s leading literary journal devoted to publishing memorable and energetic pieces that push the boundaries of literature. Continually seeking to explore the relationship between form and content, cream city review features fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, visual arts, and reviews of contemporary literature, and author interviews. Published biannually, cream city review is a volunteer-based, nonprofit journal that has attracted readers and submissions from around the world. Each year, up to 4,000 submissions are received each year from both unpublished and established writers.

The poetry team is:

Alessandra Simmons

Alessandra Simmons, whose poems have appeared in O, The Oprah Magazine, Women’s Quarterly Journal, Post Road, Hawaii Pacific Review, The Other Journal and elsewhere.

Soham Patel

Soham Patel’s publications include New Weather (the press at Yo-Yo Labs, 2015), and nevermind the storm (Portable Press at Yo-Yo Labs, 2013) and A Chapter (Sibbitt’s city press, 2013). Her poems and essays have been printed in Diastole, Portland Review, Volta, Copper Nickel, Crucible, St-VMPQO, Slurring, Denver Quarterly, ICP (Cross Cultural Poetics), Anti-, Fact-Simile Editions, Foursquare and elsewhere.

Tobias Wray

Tobias Wray’s poems have appeared or are forthcoming in Blackbird, Third Coast, Bellingham Review, North American Review, American Literary Review and elsewhere.

A Week at Write On, Door County: Diane LeBlanc

The timing was perfect. A new book was nearing publication and I was eager to resume other creative projects. So when I discovered the Hal Prize contest, offering a one-week residency at Write On, Door County was my incentive to enter.

Several months later, I arrived at an unpretentious gray house surrounded by trees and fields. Write On Executive Director Jerod Santek greeted me, gave me a tour, then left me to begin my residency.

I explored all of the property’s writing spaces. I wrote at the desk beneath a window in the room, I wrote at the table in a field several hundred yards from the house, and I wrote in the renovated chicken coop where Door County writer Norbert Blei had written for 45 years. Relocated from Ellison Bay to a field behind the house, the coop is simple: a desk, a large table, chairs, some books, and windows that overlook a garden where Blei’s favorite typesetters perch on rocks. I journaled, sketched and revised an essay in the coop, which I shared only with a resident swan.

While the residency offered solitude, I met other artists. I shared the house with poet Donna Hilbert. We connected like long-lost friends. I joined Donna, poet Ralph Moere and Shahu Atwal, musician Chrisy Christiansen, and others for a reading at Miller Art Museum in Sturgeon Bay. They welcomed me as if I’d been part of the original program.

Donna and I also made books featuring poems we’d written during the week. As we folded and glued and printed with the basic supplies I’d brought, we imagined sharing the experience with others. From those evenings came the origins of our poetry and book arts workshop, for which I’ll return to Write On, Door County in May 2017.