

# NEWS RELEASE

October 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SALT LAKE CITY—The Utah Division of Arts & Museums and the SLCC Community Writing Center have selected 22 writers in seven categories as the winners of the 65th annual Utah Original Writing Competition. The winners were selected from 298 entries from Utah-based writers.

Manuscripts were reviewed in an anonymous process by judges who reside outside of Utah. First- and second-place winners are awarded prize money, depending on the category, ranging from \$250 to \$1,500.

An event honoring Utah writers and the Original Writing Competition will take place on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2024, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., featuring an awards ceremony and readings by previous competition winners.

Past winners of the Utah Original Writing Competition include four past Utah poets laureate, including David Lee, Ken Brewer, Katharine Coles, and Lance Larsen.

## 2024 UOWC Winners

### Category A: Novel, judged by Dawn Reno Langley

- First Place: *The Same River* by Larry Menlove (Payson)
- Second Place: *She-Stallion Rising* by Sheena Blankenagel
- Honorable Mention: *Sapper* by Spencer Hyde (Provo)

### Category B: Creative Nonfiction Book, judged by Zoë Bossiere

- First Place: *The Mother Figure* by Elissa Krebs (Ogden)
- Second Place: *The Befores & Afters* by Morgan Rose-Marie (Spanish Fork)
- Honorable Mention: *Falling Into Bountiful* by Maureen Clark (Bountiful)



### **Category C: Short Story Collection, judged by Gwendolyn Kiste**

- First Place: *Gordon the Gorgon* by Mikayla Johnson (Springville)
- Second Place: *Breadcrumbs: A Collection* by Hana Jabr (West Jordan)
- Honorable Mention: *Fisheye and Other Flash Fiction* by Isaac Richards (Provo)

### **Category D: Young Adult Book, judged by Lara Buckheit**

- First Place: *The Last Ingredient* by Rebecca Wiese (Lehi)
- Second Place: *Nora's Song* by Christi Leman (Provo)
- Honorable Mention: *The National Monuments and Presidential Pets: with Zoe and Duka* by Shaunna Goldberry (Ivins)

### **Category E: Poetry, judged by Katrina Kwan**

- First Place: "Offshore" by Micah Grotegut (Mapleton)
- Second Place: "A Pondering of Words and Writing" by Zabrina Le (Salt Lake City)
- Honorable Mention: "Antelope Boy—Gender & Human Identity" by Jamison Conforto (West Jordan)

### **Category F: Short Story, judged by Caitlin Horrocks**

- First Place: "A Known Hazard; Or Sometimes I See a Shooter in the Halls" by Justin Olson (South Jordan)
- Second Place: "waterbodies" by Savannah Pearson (Salt Lake City)
- Honorable Mentions:
  - "Waning Heritage" by Lorraine Jeffery (Orem)
  - "The Eyes Behind Hands" by Megan Rose Cowdell (South Jordan)
  - "Fine" by Abby Brinkerhoff (Salt Lake City)

### **Category G: Creative Nonfiction Essay, judged by Mairead Small Staid**

- First Place: "Notes from the Lakeshore Defunct" by Christi Leman (Provo)
- Second Place: "Fata Morgana" by Morgan Rose-Marie (Spanish Fork)
- Honorable Mentions:
  - "Consummate Union" by Isaac Richards (Provo)



- o "Of Snails and the Hundred Yard Dash" by Larry Menlove (Payson)
- o "Once More to the Eclipse" by Patrick Madden (Lehi)

### **About the Utah Original Writing Competition**

Since 1958, the Utah Original Writing Competition has awarded Utah writers for works of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry in a variety of forms. The competition's mission is to aid Utah writers on their path to publication and broader recognition. Submissions must be original works and, with some exceptions, cannot be published or accepted for publication at the time of entry. Manuscripts are reviewed in an anonymous process by judges selected from outside of Utah. There is no entry fee, and it is open to all Utah residents age 18 and over.

### **About Utah Arts & Museums**

Utah Arts & Museums (UA&M) seeks to advance Utahns' quality of life through arts and museum experiences and cultural opportunities. We are a service organization offering a variety of professional development opportunities and grants to serve our constituents. We serve schools, local arts agencies, organizations, community centers, performing groups, museums, and individuals across Utah.

### **About the SLCC Community Writing Center**

The SLCC Community Writing Center (CWC) supports, motivates and educates people of all abilities and educational backgrounds who want to use writing for practical needs, civic engagement and personal expression. In addition to an open space available for writing, it provides opportunities to enhance writing abilities through programs such as Writing Coaching, Writing Workshops, the Community Writing Series, Writing Partners, and Community Publications. These services are open to all Salt Lake area residents.

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