

Poets & Writers

FROM INSPIRATION TO PUBLICATION

May 2009

Dear California Writer,

Poets & Writers, Inc. is pleased to invite you to enter the California Writers Exchange contest.

Selected by renowned judges, the winning writers receive an all-expenses-paid trip to New York City, where they meet with agents, editors, and prominent writers, and give a public reading of their work.

In past years, writers from 31 states have benefited from the Writers Exchange program. Contest winners have included poets Michael Chitwood, Denise Duhamel, and David Mura, and fiction writers Sue Monk Kidd, Mona Simpson, and Susan Straight.

Poets & Writers is grateful to the James Irvine Foundation for a major grant which makes the California Writers Exchange possible.

We hope you will review the attached guidelines, and, if you meet the eligibility requirements, send your manuscript to Poets & Writers.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Klein

Director, California Office and Readings/Workshops (West)

California Writers Exchange

2010 California

CONTEST GUIDELINES

Eligible Writers

California poets and fiction writers who:

1. Have never published a book, or;
2. Have published* no more than one full-length book in the genre in which they are applying, and;
3. Have resided in California for at least two years prior to the date they submit their manuscripts.

Writers may apply in the poetry and/or fiction categories (only one manuscript per category).

Writers may not be previous winners of contests sponsored by Poets & Writers, Inc.

Finalists will be asked to submit verification of publications and residency.

Employees of Poets & Writers, Inc. are not eligible.

*Self-published books and chapbooks do not count.

Awards

One California poet and one California fiction writer will be selected. The names of the winning writers will be announced by e-mail and on our Web site (www.pw.org) in December 2009. Each winner will receive:

1. A \$500 honorarium;
2. A trip to New York City in spring 2010 to meet with editors, agents, publishers, and writers. All related travel/lodging expenses and a per diem stipend are covered by Poets & Writers. Winners will also give a public reading of their work.

Send contest entries to:

California Writers Exchange Award
Poets & Writers, Inc.
2035 Westwood Boulevard, Suite 211
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Checklist

- _____ Four copies of the manuscript(s) are enclosed.
- _____ Contest entry form(s) are completed and signed.
- _____ Acknowledgement postcard (optional) enclosed.

Manuscript Submission Requirements

Poetry manuscripts should not exceed ten pages (and should contain a minimum of seven pages), single- or double-spaced, with no more than one poem per page.

Fiction manuscripts should not exceed twenty pages and must be double-spaced. Fiction manuscripts may include stories and/or excerpts from novels. You may specify whether a fiction piece is a novel excerpt, but plot summaries will not be accepted.

Manuscripts must be typed on 8.5" x 11" white paper in a standard font. Standard paper clips are an acceptable form of binding. Please refrain from using staples, folders, or special bindings.

Previously published work may be submitted; however, no photocopies from books or magazines are acceptable. This work should also not be identified as previously published.

All work must be original and written in English; translations are not eligible. There are no restrictions on style or subject matter.

Your name or address should **not** appear anywhere on the manuscript.

There is no entry fee required.

Manuscript Submission Procedures

Submit **four collated** copies of your manuscript (good quality photocopies are fine), each bound with a paper clip.

Enclose a signed contest entry form with your manuscript. If you are submitting in both the poetry and fiction categories, complete a separate entry form for each.

All manuscripts must be postmarked no later than
August 31, 2009.

If you want Poets & Writers to acknowledge receipt of your manuscript, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard with "California Writers Exchange" written on it.

Manuscripts will not be returned, and Poets & Writers cannot assume responsibility for the loss of manuscripts.

Application

Section One

California Writer

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone (Work) _____

Telephone (Home) _____

E-mail _____

Length of Residency in California _____

Section Two

Manuscript

Poetry _____ Fiction _____

Manuscript Title _____

Number of Pages _____

Signature _____

Date _____

List titles of all poems or fiction pieces in this manuscript. Attach an additional page if necessary.
