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You Can Write!

03.19.2014 | Culture and Society, Campus and Community

Dayton Daily News' columnist Mary McCarty will emcee the 2014 Erma Bombeck Writing Competition ceremony, which will be held at 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 9, at the Centerville Public Library, 111 W. Spring Valley Rd., in Centerville, Ohio.

This free event celebrates the winners of the biennial Erma Bombeck Writing Competition sponsored by the Washington-Centerville Public Library in conjunction with the University of Dayton's Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop.

In 2014, 853 writers from 48 states and 13 countries entered previously unpublished essays in humor and human interest categories — roughly 382,500 words.

Nancy Cartwright — the voice of Bart Simpson — and a slate of accomplished writers from around the country and Canada judged the entries.

The four winners receive \$500 and a free registration to the sold-out workshop.

Here are the winners and honorable mentions in the 2014 Erma Bombeck Writing Competition.

Global – Humor

Winner: Tracy Beckerman for “Not By the Hair of My Chinny-Chin-Chin” (New Providence, N.J.)

Honorable Mention: Leigh Ann Northcutt for “Can We Talk Turkey?” (Benton, Ky.) and Kristina Cerise for “The ‘S’ Word” (Seattle, Wash.)

Global – Human Interest

Winner: Kim Parsells for “Favorite Neighbor Brat” (Lewiston, Idaho)

Honorable Mention: Frances Peacock for “Blue Line Beauty” (Indianapolis, Ind.) and Maia Aziz for “A Family Reunited” (Quebec, Canada)

Local – Humor

Winner: Monica Schultz for “Mass Monitor” (Dayton) Schultz earned a bachelor's degree in communication in 1997 and a master of public administration in 2006, both from the University of Dayton.

Honorable Mention: Barbara Cleary for “Down the Bunny Trail” (Dayton)

Local – Human Interest

Winner: Rosalie Bernard for “Every Woman Has a Norman In Her Life” (Miamisburg)

Honorable Mention: David Novick for “Rose, the Tarantula” (Dayton) and Sheila Hassell Hughes for “Assisted Living” (Miami Twp.) Hughes chairs the English department at the University of Dayton.

The writing competition is hosted every two years by the University of Dayton and the Washington-Centerville Public Library in Centerville, Ohio, where Erma wrote the books and columns that launched her national fame.

Congratulations to the winners and to all who entered the competition. In the words of Erma Bombeck, “It takes a lot of courage to show your dreams to someone else.”

Contact Debe Dockins, coordinator of the Erma Bombeck Writing Competition, at 937-610-4429.

