

## **MCC Writing Contest 2023 Winners**

### **Short Fiction:**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Place – 10:10**

This well-crafted fantasy uses a blend of numerology, mythology, and religious speculation to weave together its narrative of both karma and fate. Antinomies of life and death, reality and non-reality, and being frozen with speed, artfully convey clever intersections of the past with the present and the future. With vivid descriptions, gripping dialogue and turns of irony, each paragraph is a mix of realism and invention. Recurring parallel actions and phrases are used to communicate the moral of the story that in the end, the goal of everyone is the pursuit of happiness in one way or another.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Taken**

In this playful use of personification, the writer uses a smooth and unencumbered style to develop a sense of tension mixed with uncertainty. Without even giving the reader a more omniscient point of view, a twist of irony adds both an air of comedy and hope that eventually leads to a happy resolution. It is an entertaining story that holds your interest and captures your imagination. Very appropriate for the Halloween season!

### **Creative Nonfiction:**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Place – It Was Don Goyo's Fault**

This pithy and timely narrative in the form of a short story engages the reader in intercultural awareness, international contexts, and the risks that accompany adventure. Seasoned with accurate information, vivid descriptions, and emotional insight, the essay draws you into the author's point of view with relevant observations, thoughts, and feelings. With this creative reporting of volcanic eruption shortly after visiting the site, one can readily relate to current world events and delight in the surprising outcome of this particular experience.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Using the Enemy**

In this conflation of personal experience with reflection and research, the writer of this timely expose transparently addresses an issue that currently plagues today's youth and society. This essay is a vivid description of the battle for self-control and recovery from the addicting grip of eating disorders. The account skillfully includes realistic reflections on probable causes, harmful consequences, denial, related fears, and the breakthrough of seeking and receiving help. Its creative title shows how the damning nature of social media can become a positive tool in recovery.

## **Poetry:**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Place – Phantom Waves**

This short poem of four couplets in synthetic parallelism uses images at the beach for similes comparing the nature of clouds and waves to the memories of a lost love. Passing clouds remind the poet of this special individual no longer present but leaving emotional effects. Waves with their ebb and flow depict the recurring feelings of loss, and the eroding of the shores by those waves depict the gradual departure of all but bittersweet memories. The poet's use of informal meter, parallelism, and figurative language paints a verbal portrait of emotional pain.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Flower Bed**

In a creative visual of word placement, this short poem presents five synthetic couplets as though they were ten free-standing monostichs. Collectively, they take the reader from a bright setting of sunlit flowers and a hint of tranquil, eternal bliss to the introduction of death. While the critter is never identified, it becomes evident that in this cycle of life, there are some who chose their final resting place surrounded by the beauty of nature, viewed as a happy fate.