

WRITER'S DIGEST COMPETITIONS

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WRITER'S DIGEST ANNOUNCES 21st ANNUAL SELF-PUBLISHED BOOK AWARDS

CINCINNATI—Ember Reichgott Junge of Minneapolis, Minnesota, has been selected as the Grand Prize winner of Writer's Digest's 21st Annual Self-Published Book Awards for her nonfiction book, *Zero Chance of Passage: The Pioneering Charter School Story*. Ms. Reichgott Junge was awarded \$3,000 in cash and will receive a paid trip to the Writer's Digest Conference in New York City. She will also receive a book endorsement from Writer's Digest, submission to major review houses and a consultation with Book Shepherd Judith Briles. Nine first-place winners were also chosen in each of the competition's categories, and each one received \$1,000 in cash.

Learning that she had won the Grand Prize Award, Ms. Reichgott Junge was stunned. "As a first-time author, I cannot express how grateful I am for this unexpected recognition. I am still taking this all in! I made an intentional choice to self-publish *Zero Chance of Passage* so I could set the historical record straight about chartering and tell the story as it really happened, not as others wanted to portray it. This affirms that decision, and I am thrilled the pioneering story is raising awareness across a wide audience. Thank you—I will always treasure this great honor! You have inspired me to continue writing—there is so much more to say."

Grand Prize – Ember Reichgott Junge – Minneapolis, MN – Nonfiction – *Zero Chance of Passage: The Pioneering Charter School Story* (\$20), Beaver's Pond Press, Inc. – ember@visi.com; www.ZeroChanceOfPassage.com

Alex J. Stokas – Lakewood Ranch, FL – Children's Picture Books – *Gertrude's Green Hat* (\$9.95), Wordlighter Press – wordlighter@hotmail.com; www.alexjstokas.com

Marilyn Jax – Edina, MN – Genre Fiction – *Sapphire Trails* (\$26), Beaver's Pond Press, Inc. – info@marilynjax.com; www.marilynjax.com

Agnes Furey – Tallahassee, FL – Inspirational – *Wildflowers in the Median* (\$12.95), iUniverse, Inc. – agnesfurey@gmail.com; www.wildflowersinthemedian.com

Charles Novacek – Detroit, MI – Life Stories – *Border Crossings* (\$18), TEN21 Press – novaceks@att.net; www.charlesnovacekbooks.com

Chris Delyani – Oakland, CA – Mainstream Fiction – *You Are Here* (\$19.95), iUniverse, Inc. – cdelyani@gmail.com; www.chrisdelyani.com

Sally Valentine – Walworth, NY – Middle Grade/Young Adult Fiction – *There Are No Buffalo in Buffalo* (\$14.95), Pyramid Publishing – RochesterAuthor@hotmail.com; www.RochesterAuthor.com

Virginia E. Elwood-Akers – Los Angeles, CA – Nonfiction – *Caroline Severance* (\$25.95), iUniverse, Inc. – virgoea@aol.com; www.virginiaelwood-akers.com

Kendra Kopelke – Baltimore, MD – Poetry – *Hopper's Women* (\$15), Ampersand press – kkopelke@ubalt.edu; www.kendrakopelke.com

Edward Zellem – Tampa, FL – Reference – *Afghan Proverbs Illustrated* (\$18.95), Createspace – author@afghanproverbs.com; www.afghansayings.com

Each year, *Writer's Digest* honors self-published authors with the Annual Self-Published Book Awards. Now in our 21st year of spotlighting today's self-published works, the competition received more than 2,500 combined entries into the nine categories, with one Grand Prize winner, nine first-place winners and 35 honorable mentions. Each entrant received a brief judge's commentary.

Writer's Digest, the charter publication of parent Company F+W Media, Inc., literally "wrote the book" on writing and getting published. For more than 90 years, the experts at Writer's Digest have been offering books, magazines, competitions, conferences and online education materials for writers who want to polish their skills, hone their craft and get published.