



**Toronto, Ont.** – The Word Guild, once again, was pleased to host the annual Word Awards event honouring some of the best in Canadian Christian writing. The evening, which included a formal dinner, was light and lively. And it's no wonder with such an entertaining group as MC Cheryl Weber, musical guest Steve Bell and the professional and humorous readings by Dennis Hassell and Dagmar Morgan.

Cheryl Weber spoke on how using our small voice and passion can have an impact on the world. She has over 20 years in broadcasting, and is best known as co-host of Full Circle. She passionately advocates for the marginalized, persecuted and sexually exploited, both nationally and internationally.

There was a real sense of celebration and community among the 150 guests and award winners. Writers, editors and guests gathered at a formal dinner to acknowledge the power of the written word. Honoured writers received awards in various genres and categories including; articles, columns, short stories, poetry and more.

Leonard Hjalmarson won both the Grace Irwin Prize and the Academic book category for his book *No Home like Place*. While Sandra Orchard took home an award in both the Romance and Suspense categories for *Identity Withheld* and *Blind Trust*. First time winner, Fern Boldt, blossomed with joy as she was recognized for her book *Blemished Heart* in the Young Adult category.

Angela Reitsma Bick, editor of Christian Courier, won for her Inspirational/Devotional piece, "Kitchen Sacraments." Also among the recipients was past Grace Irwin Prize winner, Deb Elkind, who took home the literary prize for her short story, "Thaw."

The addition of the gala at the culmination of the conference was a tremendous success. The common comment heard was "This was the most enjoyable event held yet."

The Word Guild is so thankful for each of those who entered The Word Awards and shared their stories. As Cheryl Weber stated, "Our words are making a difference." Congratulations to the Word Award winners.

You can see the complete list of winners for The Word Guild 2014 Writing Awards below and at [www.thewordguild.com/media](http://www.thewordguild.com/media).

## WINNER LIST

### THE 2014 WORD AWARDS

**Sponsor:** John and Eleanor Irwin

The Grace Irwin Prize, Canada's largest literary prize for Christian writers, celebrates the best book published in 2013.

**Winner:** Leonard Hjalmarson of Thunder Bay, Ont. for *No Home Like Place* (The Urban Loft)



**Honourable Mention:**

Drew Dyck of Carol Stream, Ill. for *Yawning at Tigers* (Thomas Nelson)

Karen V. Robichaud of Dartmouth, N.S. for *The Unforgiving Sea* (Word Alive Press)

**THE WORD GUILD AWARDS**

**WINNERS IN THE WORD GUILD'S 2014 WORD AWARDS**

**BOOKS**

**Book – Academic**

Leonard Hjalmarson of Thunder Bay, Ont. for *No Home Like Place* (The Urban Loft)

**Book – Biblical Studies**

J. Richard Middleton of Rochester, N.Y. for *A New Heaven and a New Earth* (Baker Academic)

**Book – Children**

Aimee Reid of Hamilton, Ont. for *Mama's Day with Little Gray* (Random House Children's Books)

**Book – Christian Living**

Drew Dyck of Carol Stream, Ill. for *Yawning at Tigers* (Thomas Nelson)

**Book – Culture**

David Peck of Oakville, Ont. for *Real Change Is Incremental* (BPS Books)

**Book – Instructional**

David Sherbino of Toronto for *Living, Dying, Living Forever* (Castle Quay Books)

**Book – Life Stories**

Deborah L. Willows of Huntsville, Ont. and Steph Beth Nickel of St. Thomas, Ont. for *Living Beyond My Circumstances* (Castle Quay Books)

**Novel – Contemporary**

Karen V. Robichaud of Dartmouth, N.S. for *The Unforgiving Sea* (Word Alive Press)



**Novel – Historical**

Erin M. Hatton of Barrie, Ont. for *Across the Deep* (Word Alive Press)

**Novel – Romance**

Sandra Orchard of Fenwick, Ont. for *Identity Withheld* (Harlequin)

**Novel – Speculative**

Marcia Lee Laycock of Blackfalds, Alta. for *The Ambassadors* (Helping Hands Press)

**Novel – Suspense**

Sandra Orchard of Fenwick, Ont. for *Blind Trust* (Revell)

**Novel – Young Adult**

Fern Boldt of St. Catharines, Ont. for *Blemished Heart* (Word Alive Press)

**ARTICLE, POETRY, AND SONG LYRIC CATEGORIES**

**Article – Inspirational/Devotional**

Angela Reitsma Bick of Newcastle, Ont. for “Kitchen Sacraments” (*Christian Courier*)

**Article – Long Feature**

Jenna Smith of Verdun, Que. for “Being Evangelical in Quebec” (*Faith Today*)

**Article – Personal Experience**

Bobbi Junior of Edmonton for “Tell Me about Today” (*Demeter Press*)

**Article – Profile/Human Interest**

Jenny Svetec of Hampton, Ont. for “The Truth is – Silencing the Lies of the Bully” (*testimony*)

**Article – Short Feature**

Lisa Hall-Wilson of London, Ont. for “When Christians Eat Healthy” (*Faith Today*)

**Article – Short Story**

Deb Elkind of Elkwater, Alta. for “Thaw” (*Winning Writers*)



**Column – Series**

Doug Koop of Winnipeg for “Going Down Hard” and “Time Well Spent” (*Faith Today*)

**Column – Single**

Steve Kennedy of Peterborough, Ont. for “Listening to the Body” (*testimony*)

**Poetry**

Alvin Ens of Abbotsford, B.C. for “Dormancy” (*Prairie Messenger*)

**Terence L. Bingley Award for Best Song Lyrics**

Steve Bell of Winnipeg for “Long Love” (*Signpost Music*)

**In The Beginning**

**Grand Prize Winner:**

Heather Bootsma of Brantford, ON for Fairchild’s Children

**Non-fiction short piece runner up:**

Aloma Jonker of Milton, ON for “Theodicy – How God is Vindicated”

**Fiction short piece runner up:**

Andrew Mainprize of Vancouver, BC for “Eumanus the Monk”

**Poetry runner up:**

Todd Anderson of Waterloo, ON for “Mineralogy”

**First three chapter runners up:**

Andrea Thom of St.Catharines, ON for Ruth – Redeeming the Darkness

Suzuko Shigemitsu of Edmonton, AB for Diamond for Dwarves

**Fresh Ink**

***University Category:***

**Grand Prize Winner:**

Katie Witten of Ottawa for “Suspension.” (poetry)

**Fiction short piece runner up:**

Matthew Sketchley of Dartmouth, N.S. for “Heaven’s Call Waiting.”



**Non-fiction short piece runner up:**

Ruth Lemont of Wilsonville, Ont. for "Compassion."

**Poetry runner up:**

Demi Blizzard of Whitby, Ont. for "The World they were Given."

***High school Category:***

**Grand Prize Winner:**

Emily Courtemanche of Barrie, Ont. for Castle in the Clouds

**First Three Chapters runner up:**

Shayna Granja of Mitchell, Ont. for Flight 182.

**Poetry runner up:**

Cameron Delaney of Otonabee, Ont. for "She Dreams."

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**ABOUT THE WORD GUILD**

The Word Guild is an association of Canadian writers, editors, speakers, publishers, booksellers, librarians, and other Christian individuals who are invested in or employed in media. From all parts of Canada and many denominational and cultural backgrounds, they are united in their common passion to positively influence individuals, and ultimately Canadian culture, through life-changing words that bring God's message of hope.

For more information about The Word Guild, The Word Awards, other awards or other events please visit the contest page or visit [www.thewordguild.com](http://www.thewordguild.com) and click on Contests & Awards.

To see the media releases in Word or PDF format go to [media](#).