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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photos by: Stephen Woo (www.stephenwoo.com)

Montreal Novelist Wins Top Writing Prize

Toronto, Ont. – The 28th annual Word Awards Gala was held June 24th, hosting distinguished guests and outstanding writers and editors from across Canada. M.C. Cheryl Weber hosted the celebration of God given talents and outstanding works alongside the talented Dana Marie and her band.

Debut author Susan Doherty Hannaford's *A Secret Music* (Cormorant Books) captivated judges earning the Grace Irwin Prize, a \$5000 literary award and the evening's

top prize. The judge's panel said, "This entry fit well with the pioneering spirit of Grace Irwin whom the prize was named after." Hannaford also won in the Crossover Young Adult category.

The Word Guild was pleased to have in attendance Dr. James Houston who was the recipient of the Leslie K. Tarr award for a lifetime of achievement. He wound down our evening by reminding us that our God is who we must give all glory, honour, and praise.

Among the Word Award winners was the Global Ambassador for the World Evangelical Alliance, Brian C. Stiller; writing retreat partners Tim Huff and Greg Paul; and co-collaborators Karen Stiller and Patricia Paddey.

Some of the new categories released this year included the first full-length Christian script award won by Dennis Hassell and two French-language categories Anne Cattaruzza and Jean-Sébastien Morin of Montreal.

The Word Guild was pleased to unveil future award categories including the Debra Fieguth award for writing addressing social justice issues and Castle Quay's Best New Canadian Manuscript Contest.

See the complete list of winners for The Word Guild's 2016 Word Awards below or at www.thewordguild.com/media.



Dr. James Houston, Leslie K. Tarr Award recipient - Photo by: Stephen Woo



WINNER LIST - THE 2016 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 2015.

Winner: Susan Doherty Hannaford of Montreal, Que. For *A Secret Music* (Cormorant Books)

Honourable Mention:

Craig G. Bartholomew of Hamilton, Ont. for *Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics: A Comprehensive Framework for Hearing God in Scripture* (Baker Publishing Group)

Greg Paul of Toronto, Ont. for *Simply Open* (Thomas Nelson)

BOOK CATEGORIES

CHRISTIAN CATEGORIES

NON-FICTION

Book – Academic

Craig G. Bartholomew of Hamilton, Ont. for *Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics: A Comprehensive Framework for Hearing God in Scripture* (Baker Publishing Group)

Book – Apologetics/Evangelism

James A. Beverley of Pickering, Ont, and Craig A. Evans of Moncton, N.B. for *Getting Jesus Right: How Muslims Get Jesus and Islam Wrong* (Castle Quay Books)

Book - Biblical Studies

Stanley Porter of Hamilton, Ont. for *John, His Gospel, and Jesus: In Pursuit of the Johannine Voice* (Wm. B. Eedermans Publishing)

Book – Children

Paul Boge of East St. Paul, Man. and Faye Hall of Winnipeg for *The Biggest Family in the World* (Castle Quay Books)

Book – Christian Living

Greg Paul of Toronto, Ont. for *Simply Open* (Thomas Nelson)

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Book – Culture (tie)

Brian C. Stiller, of Newmarket, Ont., (chief editor) and editorial team Karen Stiller, Todd M. Johnson, and Mark Hutchinson for *Evangelicals Around the World: A Global Handbook for the 21st Century* (Thomas Nelson)

Karen Stiller of Port Perry and Patricia Paddey of Mississauga, Ont. for *Shifting Stats Shaking The Church: 40 Canadian Churches Respond* (World Vision Canada)

Book – Inspirational/Devotional

Tim Huff of Toronto, Ont. for *The Yuletide Factor: Cause for Perpetual Comfort and Joy* (Castle Quay Books)

Book – Instructional

David Sherbino of Toronto, Ont. for *Renew: A Basic Guide For A Personal Retreat* (Castle Quay Books)

Book – Life Stories

Robert Jones of St. Albert, Alta. for *Ornament* (Word Alive Press)

FICTION

Novel - Children

Karen Autio of Kelowna, B.C. for *Kah-Lan the Adventurous Sea Otter* (Sono Nis Press)

Novel – Contemporary

Valerie Comer of Creston, B.C. for *Dandelions for Dinner* (GreenWords Media)

Novel - Historical

Rose Seiler Scott of Surrey, B.C. for *Threaten to Undo Us* (Promontory Press)

Novel – Speculative

Peter Kazmaier of Mississauga, Ont. for *The Battle for Halcyon* (Word Alive Press)

Novel – Suspense

Sandra Orchard of Fenwick, Ont. for *Desperate Measures* (Revell Publishing)



FRENCH

Fictives

Anne Cattaruzza of Longueuil, Que. for *À la recherche de Shéïda* (La Maison de la Bible)

Vie Chrétienne

Jean-Sébastien Morin of Saint-Eustache, Que. for *Mariés et heureux?* (Ministères mult)

SCRIPTS

Full Length Christian Script

Dennis J. Hassell of Toronto, Ont. for “Shell Game”

CROSSOVER CATEGORIES

Book – Culture

Christina Crook of Toronto, Ont. for *The Joy of Missing Out* (New Society Publishers)

Novel - Romance

Bryan Norford of Lethbridge, Alta. for *The Silent Remainder* (Pebble Press)

Novel – Suspense

J.A. Menzies of Markham, Ont. for *Shadow of a Butterfly: The Case of the Harmless Old Woman* (MurderWillOut Mysteries)

Novel - Young Adult

Susan Doherty Hannaford of Montreal, Que. For *A Secret Music* (Cormorant Books)

ARTICLE, POETRY, AND SONG LYRIC

CHRISTIAN CATEGORIES

Article – Blog

Thomas Froese of Ancaster, Ont. for “Fear and Childbirth in Uganda” (<http://www.dailydad.net>)

Article – Inspirational/Devotional

Carolyn Arends of Surrey, B.C. for “Our “Holy” Sins” (*Today's Christian Woman*)



Article – Long Feature

Ray Wiseman of Fergus, Ont. for “Until Death Do Us Part” (*Hot Apple Cider with Cinnamon*)

Article – Personal Experience

Kimberley Parker of St. Thomas, Ont. for “The Mission on My Street - When Love Comes Back Around” (*testimony*)

Article – Poetry

Stephen Kennedy of Peterborough, Ont. for “Afar Feast” (*Presbyterian Record*)

Article – Profile/Human Interest

Angela Reitsma Bick of Newcastle, Ont. for “Every moment holy” (*Christian Courier*)

Article – Short Feature

Lisa Hall-Wilson of London, Ont. for “Violence Against Women - Stories That Need To Be Told and Listened To” (*testimony*)

Article – Short Story

N.J. Lindquist of Markham, Ont. for “Mary's Dream” (*Hot Apple Cider with Cinnamon*)

Column – series

Josh Valley of Toronto, Ont. for “Donald Trump and other madness Evangelicals fall for” and “Seeing Jesus as a refugee” (*Christian Week*)

Column – single

John H. Redekop of Abbotsford, B.C. for “An oppressive ruling” (*The Garden Park Journal*)

TERENCE L. BINGLEY AWARD FOR BEST SONG LYRICS

Carolyn Arends of Surrey, B.C. for “Just getting Started” (*Running Arends Music/ASCAP*)

CROSSOVER CATEGORIES

Article – Long Feature

Christina Van Starckenburg of Victoria, B.C. for “Taming the TV: Turning TV Time into Teachable Moments” (*Island Parent*)



Article - Personal Experience

Heather Rae Rodin of Selwyn for “Angel At Our Door” (*Hot Apple Cider with Cinnamon*)

Short Story

Bobbi Junior of Edmonton, Alta. for “Chapter Book” (*Hot Apple Cider with Cinnamon*)

Column – Series

Thomas Froese of Ancaster, Ont. for "Of lions, children and innocence of lives given" and “Life is in the small pleasures, the simple moments” (*Hamilton Spectator*)

Column – Single

Michael Coren of Toronto, Ont. for “The Real War on Christmas Comes from the Right” (*The Toronto Star*)

Harvey/Mackey Award (celebrates the best of Canada's up and coming Christian journalists)

Christina Van Starckenburg of Victoria, B.C. for “Taming the TV: Turning TV Time into Teachable Moments” (*Island Parent*)

IN THE BEGINNING

Grand Prize Winner:

Ellen Hooze of Calgary, Alta. for *Ruth* (first three chapters)

First three chapters runner up:

Diana Holvik of Guelph, Ont. for *Love in the Storm*

Non-fiction short piece runner up:

Beckie Evans of Abbotsford, B.C. for “I did learn something”

Poem runner up:

Mike Bonikowsky of Melancthon, Ont. for “Daughter Songs”

Short Story runner up:

Annie Carpenter of London, Ont. for “Livvy & the Queen Bee”



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MEDIA RELEASE

First fifteen pages of a Short Script runner up:

Nicole Arnt of St.Catharines, Ont. for “How about L for Love”

FRESH INK

University Category:

Grand Prize Winner:

Carolyn Felker of Brantford, Ont. for *The Desert’s Secret*

First three chapters runner up:

Heather Shore of Milton, Ont. for *Sands of Kemet*

Short Story runner up:

Anna-Marina Giurin of Chatham, Ont. for “The Music of Life”

High School Category:

Grand Prize Winner:

Lindsay Evans of Trenton, Ont. for “Forever Love” (poem)

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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. 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 and click on Contests & Awards.