



**THE WRITERS'
UNION OF CANADA**

200-90 Richmond Street East, Toronto, Ontario M5C 1P1
T 416-703-8982 F 416-504-9090 www.writersunion.ca

June 6, 2011

Press Release for Immediate Release

HEATHER ROSKE WINS WRITERS' UNION OF CANADA'S POSTCARD STORY COMPETITION FOR SECOND TIME WITH "DEATH'S DOOR" - \$500 CASH PRIZE

The Writers' Union of Canada is pleased to announce that Heather Roske has won the twelfth annual Postcard Story Competition, for the best story under 250 words, with her piece "Death's Door." She previously won the competition in 2009 with her story "A.M. Care." The author will receive a \$500 cash prize. In addition, the story will be published in *Write: The Magazine of The Writers' Union of Canada*.

In addition to the winning entry, Honourable Mentions go to Mary Ann Mulhern for "The Letter" and Wanda Campbell for "House of Hurts."

The Union initiated its inaugural Postcard Story Competition in 1999 to discover, encourage, and promote writers of fiction and nonfiction in this form. This year, twenty-two Union members donated their time and expertise to read 880 outstanding submissions and distill them into a longlist of 114 stories. These stories went on to a second round of nineteen readers who selected the finalists to pass on to the 2011 Jury: **Ray Hsu, Samuel Thomas Martin, and Edeet Ravel.**

WINNER:

"Death's Door" by Heather Roske

The Jury noted that "this was a universal piece about helplessness, poverty, loss, and how old people who have no defences and support come to be seen as disposable." They commended its "very strong writing; this drew us right in and made us feel the pain of the character – pain which operates on so many levels. This story took a tremendous risk and it paid off remarkably."

Two-time Postcard Story Competition winner Heather Roske lives and farms near Southey, Saskatchewan with her husband and two children, works in the health care system, ignores the cobwebs and sneaks time for a bit of fiction writing.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

The Letter, Mary Ann Mulhern, Windsor, ON
House of Hurts, Wanda Campbell, Wolfville, NS

FINALISTS

Buddhist Fish, Ani Artinian, Unionville, ON

A Recipe, Barbara Lynne Black, Victoria, BC

Falling in Love at the Palatina, Sheila Burns, Vancouver, BC

Blackberry Crumble, Nisha Coleman, Montreal, QC

My Stepfather, Teresa Goff, Vancouver, BC

In the Evening, Linda Hendry, Rockwood, ON

The Ceremony, Catherine Owen, Burnaby, BC

Albert Takes a Working Vacation, Gayle Roberts, Delta, BC

Amusement Park, Doreen Vanderstoop, Calgary, AB

FINAL JURY

Ray Hsu, Samuel Thomas Martin, and Edeet Ravel

READERS FOR THE COMPETITION

Rona Altrows, Clayton Bailey, Thelma Barer-Stein, Ann Birch, Brenda Brooks, Elspeth Cameron, Donna Caruso, Claudia Casper, David B. Clark, Don Coles, Betty Cullen, Beverley Daurio, Maggie Dwyer, Melanie Florence, Noel Hudson, Deirdre Lynne Kelly, Monica Kulling, Lee Kvern, B.M. Lloyd, Anne Logan, Fatima Mesquita, Eleanor Millard, Michael Mirolla, Lisa Murphy-Lamb, Elizabeth Neill, Patricia Pierce, Gina Roitman, Holley Rubinsky, Rene Schmidt, Lesley Simpson, Julija Sukys, Royston Tester, Ann Towell, Matthew J. Trafford, Richard Truhlar, Sylvia Warsh, Catherine M.A. Wiebe, Judith Williams, Lorraine O'Donnell Williams, Morris Wolfe.

The Writers' Union of Canada is our country's national organization representing professional authors of books. Founded in 1973, the Union is dedicated to fostering writing in Canada, and promoting the rights, freedoms, and economic well being of all writers. For more information, please visit www.writersunion.ca.

For additional information:
Nancy MacLeod, Coordinator, Readings and Competitions
The Writers' Union of Canada
416.703.8982 Ext. 226
nmacleod@writersunion.ca