



I Can Almost Taste It Redwood Writers Contest

October 13 - November 17, 2019

Harker Brautighan and Roger DeBeers Co-chairs



Food plays a central role in our lives and our cultures. Everyone can write a story around food. Maybe for you, there's a family recipe that's been passed down for generations. It's been eaten in your family at weddings and funerals, birthdays and retirement parties. It just wouldn't be a family gathering without that recipe. If fiction is your *métier*, remember to write a short story that features a food or drink as a central character or plot device.

Redwood Writers is conducting a contest for short fiction, memoir, or essays featuring food and/or drink. The featured food or drink must play an important role in the story. For example, an essay on the evil of chocolate or how spaghetti changed your life, a memoir of Mom's New Year's Eve pizza meatballs, or a crime fiction set in New Orleans involving Shrimp Gumbo. The original, unpublished piece must include a real (tested by the author) recipe for the featured food or beverage.

If you are writing an essay, remember, essays that focus on politics or religion, are not accepted. When asked about the difference between personal essay and memoir, Phillip Lopate said "... memoir requires other people. The personal essay can avail itself of other people, but it can also be a reflection on a subject where other people are not necessarily that important..." Personal essay at its best involves a mind in conversation with itself. The topic can be something as simple or as momentous as a recipe. What will set the personal essay apart from simple reporting is self-reflection and a willingness to look honestly at yourself in all your human magnificence.

Aspects of the recipe can be built into the story, however a complete recipe (in format) with name, general information, ingredients, and preparation must appear on a separate page. If the recipe is taken from a published recipe or a variation on a published recipe, you must include a proper citation.

JUDGES:



Noelle Oxenhandler's essays have appeared in many national and literary journals, including *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *VOGUE*, *Tricycle*, and *Parabola*. The author of three non-fiction books, she teaches Creative Writing at Sonoma State University.



Emily Conway is a writer, freelance editor, and Children's Specialist at Copperfield's Books. She holds a BA in English from the University of California, Berkeley, and love all genres for kids and adults alike. The more eclectic, the better!



Gus Lopez has been in the kitchen cooking since the age of four. The kitchen was Gus' preschool class. Over the years Gus has been a chef and cooking teacher and has mentored many young people in the art of the kitchen. His motto is "You are not too young or too old to learn the art of the kitchen." Gus and his family have donated over a thousand books to the Pelican Bay Prison Library.



I Can Almost Taste It
Redwood Writers Contest
October 13 - November 22, 2019

SUBMISSIONS:

- The contest is open to any Redwood Writer or California Writers Club member, regardless of where they reside, and to non-member residents of Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino, Marin, Lake, Humboldt and Solano counties.
- The piece must be original and unpublished.
- Text: 2,000 words or less; Font: Times New Roman, size 12, double spaced (text)
- number the pages, bottom right, be double-spaced, 1-inch margins.
- Recipe: 500 words or less; in recipe format on a separate page, Font: Times New Roman, size 12, single spaced (text). The recipe must be a real recipe that the author has tested. If the recipe is taken from a published recipe, you must include a citation.

Recipe Name

Yield: number of servings

Prep time: hours and minutes

Total time: prep + cook time

Ingredients (in order of use in recipe)

Ingredient | measurement

Ingredient | measurement

Ingredient | measurement

Directions (simple step by step)

Explain how to prep and cook the recipe

Citation

- Submission must be in the proper format, spell and grammar checked. Technical errors may cause the submission to be rejected.
- The piece with recipe must be submitted on the Redwood Writers web site.
 - Contest opens October 13.
 - Submissions due no later than November 22 at 9:00 pm.
 - Decision by December 15.
 - Winners announced Jan 12.
- Please **DO NOT** put your name on the manuscript or recipe. Submissions are judged BLIND.

FEES:

- \$10 for RW members and \$15 for non-members
- Website will allow payment by check or PayPal

AWARDS:

First prize is \$100 plus a \$40 gift certificate to Gus's Café

Second place receives \$50 and a \$30 gift certificate to Gus's Café

Third place prize is \$25 and a \$25 gift certificate to Gus's Café