



STORIES THAT SHAPED US

The Stories that Shaped Us are the impactful stories or defining moments that helped mold you into who you are today. For this contest, we are looking for stories that shape a person's life. Stories about moments, events, or people, both public or private, that shaped a person's life. The work is understood to be factual. The story can be about touchstone events and/or turning points in a life.

For the contest, we encourage the works written as creative nonfiction. A literary style of memoir that uses fiction techniques (plot, character, dialogue) to create an entertaining yet factually accurate narrative. A creative memoir is a tale taken from life—that is, from actual, not imagined, occurrences—related by a first-person narrator who is undeniably the writer. Beyond these bare requirements it has the same responsibility as the short story: to shape a piece of experience so that it moves from a tale of private interest to one with meaning for any reader.



CONTEST CHAIR: Adele Layton is a verbatim court reporter who has been on assignment with federal and state courts and large law firms across the United States. She has traveled extensively in the U.S. and Europe, providing testimony for cases impacting big business and government. She is currently creating film scripts based upon her adventures, ranging from medical stories to a news article describing an international food competition, the Bocuse d'Or, in France. She sits on the board of directors of the Redwood branch of the California Writers Club. Adele had a story published in *Sonoma: Stories of a Region and Its People* and she is working on a screenplay.



JUDGE: Skye Blaine writes fiction, memoir, and poetry, developing themes of aging, coming of age, disability, and awakening. She received an MFA in Creative Writing from Antioch University. *Bound to Love: a memoir of grit and gratitude*, was published in 2015. Her debut novel, *Unleashed*, came out in November 2017



JUDGE: Jean Wong, author of *Sleeping with the Gods* and *Hurtling Jade, and Other Tales of Personal Folly*, is an award-winning poet, fiction, and memoir writer. Her work has been produced by the Petaluma Reader's Theater, Sixth Street Playhouse, Off The Page, and Lucky Penny Productions. Jean writes from the bottom of a well, always amazed to look up and see the sky.



JUDGE: Andrea Granahan has been an award winning journalist, publisher, and travel writer for over 30 years. She has published two memoir books: *It's Greek to Me* and *Backstories from the West Edge*. She has also published a volume of poetry called *The Man with the Portable Love Room and Other Stray Thoughts*. She makes her home in a redwood forest near the town of Bodega in Northern California. For some years, she published the Bodega Bay Navigator, a weekly newspaper on the California coast.

Tell us what shaped your life!

CONTEST RULES

CRITICAL DATES:

- Submissions open May 20, 2018
- Submissions close June 24, 2018
- Winners announced at Redwood Writers Meeting in August

Please observe the following contest rules; otherwise, your entry may be disqualified.

DO NOT place your name or contact information anywhere on your submission.

This is a blind judging. For questions: memoircontest@redwoodwriters.org,

Submission Fee: \$10.00 Members
 \$15.00 Nonmembers

Submission

- Submit as a docx file.
- Wordcount: No more than 2,500 words.
- Work must be previously unpublished.
- Format: Manuscripts must be double-spaced and use 12-point, Times New Roman font.
- Number the pages, bottom right.
- Only ONE submission per entrant.
- Please use the online form to submit your entry and payment.
- Only submissions uploaded via the online form will be accepted for judging.
- Immediate family members of judges and chairs of this contest are not eligible to submit.

If you choose to pay with a check, please make check out to "CWC Redwood," and write "Memoir Contest" on the memo line. Please mail check to:

Redwood Writers
P.O. Box 4687
Santa Rosa, CA 95402



WORKSHOP
Saturday May 26
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Flamingo Hotel
Santa Rosa

REMINISCENCE: A WORKSHOP ON THE ART OF MEMOIR

This workshop will clarify the rules for the contest and will be headed up by Jean Wong, a noted memoir author. Discussion will focus on best rules governing this unique genre that is drawn from true-to-life experiences. Often forgotten, the visual setting is important to include, as you are writing about a specific period in time. There is a major difference between writing memoir for a family and writing about a life-changing experience. These two arenas are often confused, so come to the workshop, and we will clarify what makes a good story as well as a true story.

WORKSHOP LEADER: Jean Wong, author of *Sleeping with the Gods* and *Hurling Jade, and Other Tales of Personal Folly*, is an award-winning poet, fiction, and memoir writer. Her work has been produced by the Petaluma Reader's Theater, Sixth Street Playhouse, Off The Page, and Lucky Penny Productions. Jean writes from the bottom of a well, always amazed to look up and see the sky.

Register online: redwoodwriters.org.

Price: \$20.00 Members
 \$30.00 Nonmembers