



AHLP Expands Call for Entries for 2005 Literary Contests and Releases First Volume of New Literary Collection

The Africana Homestead 2005 Short Story and Poetry Contests are sponsored by Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers (AHLP). In 2004 AHLP established this contest to support emerging, amateur poets in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware and to honor the legacy of African Americans and recent black immigrants who live in those states. The contests are now open to residents of all 50 States and the territories of the United States of America.

([PRWEB](#)) May 5, 2005 -- The Publisher and Editors of Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers (AHLP) proudly announce their call for entries for the 2005 Africana Homestead Short Story Contest and 2005 Africana Homestead Poetry Contest. In its second year, the contests are open to residents of all 50 States and the territories of the United States of America. The winning entries from the 2004 contests are in AHLP's forthcoming annual monograph, *Visions of Black Life: A Collection of Outstanding Short Stories and Poetry, Volume I* May 2005.

Since its founding in 1995, AHLP's mission has been to produce scholarly works that document the history and experiences of black people worldwide. In 2004 Carolyn C. Williams, Publisher-Executive Director, expanded the mission to include publishing non-fiction and fiction literary works for all ages. The impetus for establishing the contests was the many letters and telephone calls that AHLP received from people who wanted the company to publish their poetry, short fiction, or novels. Meeting this need as one of the few African American book publishers in the United States, AHLP is forever dedicated to helping emerging writers and poets achieve their dreams.

In both literary contests there are three categories with cash awards: Children (ages 5 to 11 on August 31, 2005), First: \$75; Second: \$50; Third: \$25. Youth (ages 12 to 18 on August 31, 2005), First: \$150; Second: \$100; Third: \$75. Adult (age 18 and older on August 31, 2005), First \$300; Second: \$200; Third: \$100. AHLP also gives contest winners a trophy, and certificates to those who earn honorable mention.

AHLP will publish the entries of the 2005 winners and those who earn honorable mention in their annual monograph, *Visions of Black Life: A Collection of Outstanding Poetry and Short Stories, Volume II* May 2006. The editors will also invite first, second, and third place winners to read their work at an awards ceremony in May 2006. AHLP and contest entry fees will fund the prizes. Each winner may earn only one major prize. If a winner has more than one submission, they may earn honorable mentions for their other works. AHLP solely funds the publication and will give the winners three royalty-free copies.

Visions of Black Life: A Collection of Outstanding Short Stories and Poetry, Volume I May 2005 features the winners of our 2004 contests. High school teachers, undergraduate students, and graduate students, the diverse group of authors captures the black experience from interesting perspectives: mature versus young adult and those within versus those outside the community.

In Volume I, the short stories range from thought-provoking to humorous. Like "White" captures the complex issues of an interracial family confronting racism during a KKK march in Newark, Delaware (Rachel Elizabeth Griffiths, first place, adult category). In "My Sisters Keeper," a newly divorced mother of two finds help and friendship as she leaves behind her privileged middle class life for more humble surroundings (Cassandra L. Manuel, second place, adult category). "The Story of Tina" explores the troubles of teen life when Tina confronts love and deception in her relationship with her boyfriend Raashan (Cassandra L. Manuel, honorable mention,

adult category). Similar to an African tale, and for the young and young at heart, the children at summer camp ask their mayor and city council for help when their lunch is a disaster in "PNut Butter and Rubber" (Kemba Sonnebeyatta, third place, adult category).

The poetry is equally rousing, even controversial. "Just Asking" sharply criticizes black folk engaged in self-destructive behavior in the community (Cassandra L. Manuel, first place, adult category). A forceful warning for young ones growing into adulthood bursts from the page in "Predators" (Cassandra L. Manuel, honorable mention, adult category). A historical retrospective on racism, "Freedom" recounts past challenges, progress, and failure that impacts the present (Adrienne K. Scott, second place, adult category). "Black and White," with sophisticated imagery, captures the essence of the conundrum, "separate but equal" education (Stefanie Gordon, first place, youth category).

AHLP held its first literary awards program Sunday, May 1, 2005 at M^elange Caf^e in Cherry Hill, New Jersey to honor the 2004 winners. Due to receiving unacceptable submissions or no entries at all, they did not give awards in certain categories. Because AHLP has expanded the event to include all 50 States and territories, they expect to have winning entries in every age group for both contests in the future.

To receive the 2005 contest guidelines, interested persons should e-mail their request to literarycontests@ahlpub.com. Starting June 2005, all may purchase *Visions of Black Life: A Collection of Outstanding Short Stories and Poetry, Volume I* May 2005 through Amazon.com or by sending e-mail to the publisher at book-orders@ahlpub.com. The monograph's ISBN is 0-9653308-6-9 and the ISSN is pending. These are the U.S. subscription rates: Individuals, \$25; Students, \$15 (fax/mail ID); Institutions, \$30. Foreign subscription rates are as follows: Individuals, \$35; Students, \$25 (fax/mail ID); Institutions, \$40.

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