

MUNDELEIN ARTS COMMISSION
2020 SHORT STORY CONTEST RULES

The Mundelein Arts Commission's short-story contest is for adult (18 and over) writers who live or work in Lake County, Illinois. Please read AND FOLLOW all rules and submission information, given below. Any questions can be addressed to jlee@email.mundelein.org.

NOTE: THIS IS A FICTION CONTEST: Please do NOT write about your personal experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic, though you may use the pandemic as a basis for your story. **Nonfiction pieces, including essays, memoirs, biographies, opinion, histories or journalism pieces will be disqualified.**

- 1) Deadline for submissions is **October 16, 2020**. Late submissions will not be accepted. Submit by email as an attached Word document to jlee@email.mundelein.org. (NO GOOGLE DOCS PLEASE) PDFs are acceptable but Word documents are preferred.
- 2) All adults who live or work in Lake County are eligible to participate. One entry per person.
- 3) All stories must in some way adhere to the contest theme, "Isolation." Stories may be serious or humorous.
- 4) Eligible stories must be original and unpublished **fiction** of no more than 3,000 words and written in English. Exact word count should be included on the entry form that must accompany the story.
- 5) Stories should be in standard format and 12-point standard font (Times New Roman or Ariel are preferred), double-spaced with one-inch margins. Pages should be numbered with the title at the top.
- 6) **No identifying information should appear on the story itself.** The entry sheet can be filled out as a Word doc and **MUST** be included with the story. Send as an email attachment with the subject line "2020 Story Contest." Upon receipt, your story will be assigned a number, which will serve as identification for the judge.
- 7) Content and language are left up to the writers, but they are advised to avoid gratuitous sex or violence. Judges or members of the Mundelein Arts Commission retain the right to reject any story that they deem inappropriate, unnecessarily incendiary or obscene, either in language or content.
- 8) Prizes in the amounts of \$50, \$30, and \$20 will be awarded first, second and third-place winners. Winners and honorable mention stories will be published in the anthology *Mundelein Writes: Isolation*. Included writers will be presented with a copy and copies will be presented to the Fremont Public Library and Mundelein Historical Museum. Additional copies may be obtained for free at the Mundelein Village Hall.
- 9) Each entrant will receive an email indicating receipt of the story. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt with a few days of sending, please contact the above email address. Should fewer than three total entries be received by deadline, the contest will not proceed.
- 10) While authors retain copyright of their work, the MAC retains the right to use photos or author information for promotional purposes.
- 11) Should a story be accepted for publication elsewhere before the judging is completed, it becomes ineligible for this contest and must be withdrawn immediately. After the contest is over, the story may be submitted for publication elsewhere with the statement, "Originally published in *Mundelein Writes: Isolation*, by the Mundelein Arts Commission, Mundelein, Illinois, 2020."
- 12) Final stories may be slightly edited for spelling and grammar before publication. Please use spellcheck and proofread before you submit your entry.

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SHORT STORY CONTEST

ENTRY FORM

ENTRANT _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ CELL _____

STORY TITLE _____

WORD COUNT _____

AUTHOR DECLARATION

- I certify that I am the author of the entry noted above, that I am 18 years or older, that this is my original unpublished work, and that I hold all rights in the work. If any claims or disputes should arise as to this work's ownership or content, I accept complete responsibility for settling or remedying those claims or disputes, and I agree that the Mundelein Arts Commission (MAC) bears no responsibility for the copyright or content of the work.
- I agree to abide by all judges' decisions regarding my entry. I understand that judges will make their decisions based on the criteria on the judging sheet, and that their decisions are final.
- If my work should be selected I understand that it shall be included in the anthology *Mundelein Writes: Isolation*, and that while I retain the copyright, any subsequent publishing of the story must include the statement: "Originally published in *Mundelein Writes: Isolation*, by the Mundelein Arts Commission, Mundelein, Illinois, 2018."
- I agree that other than any monetary prize awarded, any funds generated through sale of the anthology are the sole property of the Mundelein Arts Commission to be used in further funding of the arts.
- I understand that any information on my story or me may be used for promotional or historical purposes.

ENTRANT _____
Print name

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____