



The Sixth Annual GCLS Literary Awards

2010 Guidelines and Nomination Information

The GCLS Literary Awards Administrator, Mary Hettel, has issued the nomination guidelines for the 2010 GCLS Literary Awards. There have been minor changes and additions to these guidelines since last year's awards. Please read the guidelines carefully prior to submitting your nomination(s). In the event that a question arises that is not specifically addressed in these guidelines, the GCLS Awards Administrator reserves the right to make a ruling. Any rulings made after the nomination period has opened will be posted as an addendum at the bottom of this page.

1. Eligibility for submission requires:
 - a. First edition books printed in the English language.
 - b. Published in hardcover or soft cover.
 - c. Have a publishing date between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009.
 - d. Be readily available for purchase in the United States.
 - e. Must contain significant lesbian content, characters, and/or themes.
2. Nominations must be postmarked by January 18, 2010.
3. Self-published books are eligible for nomination.
4. Paperback reprints of previously published hardcover books are not eligible for nomination.
5. Subsequent editions (2nd, 3rd editions) are not eligible regardless of the addition or subtraction of material.
6. Publishers, authors, fans, publicists, or other individuals are eligible to submit any lesbian titles for consideration.
7. The number of awards in each category will be determined as follows:
 - 1 book nominated - No awards given in that category that year
 - 2-4 books nominated - up to 4 finalists - 1 award presented
 - 5-7 books nominated - up to 7 finalists - 2 awards presented
 - 8 or more books nominated - up to 8 finalists - 3 awards presented
8. If a category does not receive enough nominations to make it viable, the category will not be active for the current awards year. The Awards Administrator reserves the right to reassign the book(s) to another category if appropriate, or the administrative fee will be refunded and books returned if the book cannot compete in another category.

9. Nominations must include the following to be complete and eligible for consideration:

- Completed Nomination Form.
- Three (3) copies of the nominated book.
- An administrative fee of \$25.00 for each category in which a book is nominated. If you are nominating a substantial number of books, this is the fee structure:

1-5 Books - \$25.00 each

6-10 Books – \$23.00 each

11 or more - \$20.00 each

- All elements (form, books and fees) must be postmarked by January 18, 2010.

10. A book can be submitted in only one category, with one exception: any debut novelist may submit a first book in both the Debut category and the category to which the book belongs (i.e. Debut and Mystery, or Debut and Traditional Romance, or Debut and Erotica, etc.).

11. With the exception of eligibility for Debut Author short listing, no book will be shortlisted in more than one category, and no book shall be eligible for an award in more than one category (except for Debut Author). Multiple books by co-authors or co-editors may be submitted for judging in a single category, but after judging, only one book by those authors/editors may be represented as a finalist in that category. If two or more books by co-authors/editors are initially included in the Top 8, the highest ranking book shall be retained and the others eliminated from competition. Exception: If a co-author or co-editor is already represented in a category as an individual author of another book, the book with the collaborator(s) may still be represented so as not to penalize the other collaborator(s).

12. Each category will be judged by three individuals. Judges may be authors, booksellers, librarians, book reviewers, or other members of the literary community considered eligible by the GCLS Awards Administrator. In no case will a publisher, editor, or employee of a publisher, or author, or any member of the GCLS Literary Society Board of Directors be eligible to serve as a Judge.

13. In 2010, the judging process will be administered by Mary Hettel, The GCLS Awards Administrator. (Please see Selection of Finalist and Winners section for more detailed information)

14. Awards will be announced at the GCLS Literary Awards Ceremony during the 2010 GCLS Literary Conference in June, 2010, in Orlando, Florida. Please Note: It is possible that more than one entity would nominate a particular book. If that should happen, the administrative fee will not be returned or pro-rated but will be used toward defraying administrative costs.

Copies of nominated books become the property of the Golden Crown Literary Society and will not be returned to the publishers or authors. Books not properly nominated will not be eligible for entry for the Awards and cannot be returned. Publishers will be asked to provide a current e-mail (or mail) address for any author whose book is selected as a finalist in order that a notice of the Awards ceremony can be sent to each author. In the event that the author cannot attend but wins the award, the Awards Administrator will request a proxy acceptor be appointed or, in the alternative, that acceptance remarks be provided so they can be read by the presenter.

The decision of the Golden Crown Literary Society as to eligibility of any book shall be final, and no correspondence shall be entered into in relation to eligibility. The decision of the Judges, who will remain anonymous until after the Awards are announced, shall be final, and no correspondence will be entered into with publishers, authors, fans, or any agents concerning the judging process.

Please make checks payable to: **Golden Crown Literary Society**

Nomination materials should be mailed to the following address:

Mary Hettel, Awards Administrator
328 Lauryn Meadows Court
Fairfield, Ohio 45014-2625
Email: mhettel@cinci.rr.com



2010 GCLS Literary Award Categories

Traditional Contemporary Romance

Romance novels which focus primarily on the romantic relationship of the two main characters.

Judging guidelines: In this category, the love story is the main focus of the novel, and the end of the book is emotionally satisfying and optimistic. There may be secondary story lines (drama, coming out, family dynamics, etc.) but the romance is the main story line. These novels take place in the present or very recent past.

Romantic Suspense/Intrigue/Adventure

Novels which focus primarily on the romantic relationship and include complex suspense, intrigue, and/or adventure subplots as an integral part of the plot.

Judging guidelines: In this category, the love story is a major focus of the novel with complex suspense, intrigue, and/or adventure elements supporting the plot. Not to be confused with the mystery/thriller category, the culmination of the storylines in these novels achieves an emotionally satisfying romantic storyline as well as resolving issues of suspense, intrigue or adventure.

Historical Romance

For the purpose of the GCLS Literary Awards, a novel classified as 'Historical' must meet one of the following criteria. The novel must have been written:

1. at least fifty years after the events described; or
2. by someone who was not alive at the time of those events.

Judging guidelines: In this category, the love story is the main focus of the novel, with historical elements supporting the romantic plot.

Paranormal Romance

Romance novels in which the future, a fantasy world, time travel, aliens, vampires or other creatures, or some sort of paranormal happenings are critical to the plot and support the main plot which is clearly that of a love story.

Judging guidelines: In this category, though the love story is the main focus of the novel, futuristic, fantasy, or paranormal elements are blended with the love story.

Lesbian Mystery/Thriller

Novels in which a mystery, puzzle, or search, particularly in the realm of crime, are central to the main plot. For mysteries, in general there would be sleuth(s) detecting, crime(s) committed, and a resolution to the mystery. Thrillers may include mystery elements as well as suspense, action, and/or searches and chases.

Judging Guidelines: In this category, no love story or personal issues for the main character(s) ever constitute the main plot (though subplots of romance or personal issues may exist). The major focus is on solving crimes, catching criminals, saving the world, and the like. When romance, intrigue, or romantic adventure are major elements that loom larger than the mystery or thriller plot, the book belongs in the Romantic Suspense/Intrigue/Adventure category. Novels that are not *primarily* mysteries or thrillers but are nominated in this category will be judged accordingly.

Lesbian Speculative Fiction

Includes Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror, and/or Paranormal where the future, a fantasy world, time travel, aliens, or some sort of paranormal happenings occur and constitute a major part of the plot.

Judging Guidelines: In this category, futuristic, fantasy, or paranormal elements are central. Though subplots of romance and drama may exist, the major focus is not on love and romance. When romance is a major element that looms larger than the speculative aspects, the book belongs in the Paranormal Romance category. Novels that are not *primarily* speculative fiction but are nominated in this category will be judged accordingly.

Lesbian Erotica

Includes Erotic Novels, Anthologies, and Collections that contain a high level of sexual content.

Judging Guidelines: In this category, sex (which may be coupled with romance) is the primary focus.

Lesbian Anthology (Non-Erotica)

Includes multi-author collections of Fiction, Drama, and/or Nonfiction that may cover a large variety of topics, excluding Erotica.

Judging Guidelines: In this category, the works are anthologies by, for, and/or about lesbian issues, experiences, and lives.

Lesbian Dramatic/General Fiction

Includes Drama, Sagas, Coming Out, Coming of Age, Young Adult, Historical Fiction, Literary Novels, and all General Fiction.

Judging Guidelines: In this category, the works are about lesbians, but do not focus primarily on romance and/or sex, though those elements are often present.

Lesbian Short Story/Essay Collections (Non-Erotica)

Includes individual or multi-author collections of Memoir, Creative Nonfiction, Essays, Humor, Commentary, and Short Stories of all lengths.

Judging Guidelines: In this category, the works are about lesbians, but do not focus primarily on romance and/or sex, though those elements may be present. Originality and writing skill are taken into consideration. In the event that one author published multiple titles during the nomination period, the FIRST published book must be the one nominated for this category.

Lesbian Poetry

Includes single or multi-author collections of poetry.

Judging Guidelines: In this category, the poems touch primarily upon lesbian issues, experiences and lives.

Lesbian Debut Author

This category is for authors who have published their first book during the time period covered by this awards cycle. (Academic books and non-lesbian works are not considered for this award, nor does the publication of academic or non-lesbian works disqualify an author from this category.)

Additional Categories

Ann Bannon Popular Choice Award

This award is voted on by members of the Golden Crown Literary Society. Voting eligibility requires active membership in the Golden Crown Literary Society on the day the voting opens.

There is a \$10.00 fee to nominate a book for this award, however, submission of books is NOT required for this category. All the other criteria for nominations are applicable. All nominations will be compiled, and the Membership will vote to narrow the field to a shortlist of eight (8) finalists. The Membership will vote again to determine who actually wins from the Top 8 Finalists.

Trailblazer Award

This award is for lifetime achievement and is presented each year to a single author in recognition of the contributions made to the field of lesbian literature. To be eligible to win, the author must meet following criteria:

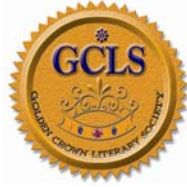
1. The author must have been publishing over a period of at least 10 years;
2. published a *significant* body of work; and
3. written lesbian-themed works that have positively impacted the growth and visibility of the field of Lesbian Literature.

Nominations for the Trailblazer Award are eagerly solicited from any member. This award is chosen by the Executive Director in concert with the GCLS Board of Directors.

The Directors' Award

The GCLS Directors' Award is presented to a single GCLS member in recognition of contributions made to the Golden Crown Literary Society during the past year and/or to the ongoing mission of the organization over a longer period of time. To be eligible for this award, the nominee must be a GCLS member in good standing.

Nominations for The Directors' Award are eagerly solicited from any member. This award is chosen by the GCLS Board of Directors.



The GCLS Literary Awards Judging Process

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The GCLS Board of Directors shall:

1. appoint an independent Awards Administrator and an Assistant to oversee, enforce guidelines and rules, and coordinate the awards judging and ceremony;
2. prior to opening the awards nominations, review the GCLS literary awards guidelines and the literary award categories from the previous year and rule on any additions, deletions, and/or modifications for the subsequent year;
3. prior to opening the awards nominations, rule on any modifications to the fee and book submission requirements;
4. prior to opening the awards nominations, appoint a member of the Board to serve as a Liaison for the Awards Administrator's convenience. Said Liaison will serve as a sounding board for the Awards Administrator, provide historical data, and assist the Awards Administrator in presenting information to the Board should an issue arise that needs adjudication;
5. at the request of the Awards Administrator, and with the help of the appointed Liaison, provide clarification as to rules or guidelines. At no time shall any identifying information as to the nominator, author, or publisher be shared with the Liaison or the GCLS Board of Directors in this process. ;

The GCLS Board of Directors shall not:

1. have contact with the Awards Administrator regarding the awards from the opening day of the current nominations period through the presentation of the awards;
2. accept any appeals or entertain questions or comments before or during the process regarding the GCLS literary awards. All such issues shall be referred to the Awards Administrator and be handled at the Awards Administrator's discretion.

LIAISON: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The GCLS Liaison to the Awards Administrator shall:

1. serve as advisor to the Awards Administrator during the selection of the judges;
2. serve as Liaison between the GCLS Awards Administrator and the GCLS Board of Directors for any ruling clarifications as may be requested by the Awards Administrator.

3. verify the mathematical calculations of the judging tally sheets, said tally sheets first being stripped of identifying information (book title, author, and publisher) by the Awards Administrator.

AWARDS ADMINISTRATORS: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The GCLS Awards Administrator and Assistant shall:

1. issue the approved nomination guidelines for the GCLS literary awards;
2. be responsible, with input and assistance from the Liaison, for the selection and assignment of a minimum of judges per literary award category;
3. record and process all award nominations;
4. provide clarification to nominators regarding the rules and guidelines;
5. be responsible for issuing and enforcing the approved judging rules and guidelines to the judges;
6. provide the judges with all the forms, books, guidelines, and guidance necessary to complete the judging process;
7. evaluate accuracy, completion, and fairness of all evaluations, and in the case of an obvious disproportionate score, contact the judges to ascertain that the results are fair and accurate;
8. upon completion of the judging process, accept the final evaluations from the judges, tally and compile scores, and determine the finalist lists and winners in each category;
9. forward the names of the winners to the individuals who will make the trophies and create the award presentation Powerpoint for the awards ceremony;
10. archive the physical records for not less than seven (7) years.

The GCLS Awards Administrator and Assistant shall not:

1. share any aspect of the judging process before, during, or after completion of the process, the only exception being to give general and/or summary data to the Liaison when there is a question for the Board or when advice is needed regarding any aspect of the process that is not currently part of the written guidelines;
2. divulge to anyone the specifics of the numerical rankings for the winners or the way the various judges evaluated the works they read.

The judges' decisions are final. Neither the Awards Administrator nor the Board will entertain objections or challenges with regard to the judging or the judging process.

LITERARY AWARDS JUDGES: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A judge shall:

1. judge only in categories in which s/he is not nominated;
2. judge only categories in which books by a partner or relatives are not nominated;
3. agree to adhere to the rules and guidelines of the judging process;
4. agree to adhere to the timelines established by the Awards Administrator;

5. sign a non-disclosure/confidentiality agreement.

SELECTION OF FINALISTS AND WINNERS:

While every judging process has elements of subjectivity, the process used by the Judges for the GCLS Literary Awards greatly reduces the prospect of favoritism. Each Judge is provided with rules and guidelines and one clean copy of each book for the category being judged along with one scoring sheet for each book to be read and scored.

The scoring sheet is comprised of several sections containing a variety of sub-questions which apply to the characteristics of the category being judged. For instance, poetry judges would consider openings, use of language, structure, theme, content, etc. while mystery judges would focus on openings, structure, plot, characterization, etc. All categories have some common questions (initial evaluation, openings, overall impressions), but each category also has its own specific sub-questions tailored to the genre.

Each book must be scored in the category for which it is a finalist. For example, a romance with a mystery subplot, if nominated in the mystery category, must be evaluated in terms of how well it serves as a mystery. This is why it is so important for submitters to be sure they have nominated the book in the most accurate category.

Judges read and evaluate each book, assign a point value to each question using the following designations:

- 5 – **Excellent**: minimal flaws, a joy to read;
- 4 – **Very good**: few flaws, and any minor technical flaws did not detract from the reading;
- 3 – **Good**: some flaws present and needed further editing or reworking in key aspects;
- 2 – **Fair**: needs improvement in enough aspects that the reading was not as smooth as it should have been;
- 1 – **Poor**: serious flaws, and needed such major revision/rewriting that it did not provide for a good reading.

The Judge shall total the score sheets and return them to the GCLS Awards Administrator by the deadline set.

SCORING

Scoring is accomplished by computing the average of the three Judges' scores. The Top Eight scoring books will be designated Finalists, and the top three (3) scorers in each category, as validated by the Awards Administrator and confirmed by the Liaison, shall be considered equal winners.

TIE-BREAK PROTOCOL

FINALISTS: In the event that there is a tie for the eighth ranked finalist position, there shall be more than eight finalists for that category.

WINNERS: In the event of a tie between the third and fourth ranked books, the Awards Administrator will read and evaluate the two books in question. The Awards Administrator's scores will be added to the totals of the original Judges' scores for each book, and the numbers will be re-averaged, to determine the winner.

In the event that there is a second tie, the three Judges will be asked to rank the eight books that have scored the highest on a scale of 1 to 8. The three scores for the two tied books will be averaged to determine the winner."

In the event of a third tie, four awards will be given in that category for that particular year.

SELECTION OF FINALISTS AND WINNERS IN THE ANN BANNON POPULAR CHOICE CATEGORY

This award is voted on by members of the Golden Crown Literary Society. Voting eligibility requires active membership in the Golden Crown Literary Society on the day the voting opens. All nominations will be compiled, and the Membership will vote to narrow the field to a shortlist of eight (8) finalists. The Membership will vote again to determine who actually wins from the Top 8 Finalists.

Any author who wins the Ann Bannon Award is ineligible to win again for the subsequent two years. Any year that Ann Bannon cannot attend to present the award, the winner of the previous year (or of a previous year) will be tapped to present the current year's award.

FINALITY OF DECISIONS

The decision of the Golden Crown Literary Society as to eligibility of any book shall be final, and no correspondence shall be entered into in relation to eligibility. The decision of the Judges, who will remain anonymous until after the Awards are announced, shall be final, and no correspondence will be entered into with publishers, authors, fans, or any agents concerning the judging process.

Questions about any aspect of this nomination packet may be directed to the Awards Administrator:

Mary Hettel, Awards Administrator
328 Lauryn Meadows Court
Fairfield, Ohio 45014-2625
Email: mhettel@cinci.rr.com

