



NEWS RELEASE

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Stanford University Libraries Opens Submissions for 2014 William Saroyan International Prize for Writing

Stanford University Libraries, in partnership with the William Saroyan Foundation, announced today the launch of the sixth William Saroyan International Prize for Writing (Saroyan Prize). Intended to encourage new or emerging writers and honor the Saroyan literary legacy of originality, vitality and stylistic innovation, the Saroyan Prize recognizes newly published works of both fiction and non-fiction. A prize of \$5,000 will be awarded in each of these categories.

Literary fiction, including novels, short story collections, and drama, will be eligible for consideration for the Saroyan Fiction Prize. Literary non-fiction of any length is eligible for consideration for the Saroyan Non-fiction Prize, most particularly writing in the Saroyan tradition: memoirs, portraits and excursions into neighborhood and community. Entries in either category are limited to English language publications that are available for individual purchase by the general public. Entries must be received on or before January 31, 2014. Official entry forms and rules are available [here](#).

"It is Stanford University Libraries' duty and privilege to once again honor William Saroyan's literary legacy by awarding The William Saroyan International Prize for Writing," said Michael A. Keller, Stanford University Librarian. "The prize is a welcome opportunity to engage with a stellar team of alumni who serve as reviewers and judges, and to learn about and engage with remarkable emerging authors, all while highlighting the talents of Saroyan himself."

The Saroyan Prize was last awarded in 2012, when the fiction prize went to Daniel Orozco for his short story collection *Orientation and Other Stories* (Faber and Faber, 2011) and the non-fiction prize went to Elisabeth Tova Bailey for *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating* (Algonquin, 2010). Other notable winners include Jonathan Safran Foer in 2003 for his novel *Everything is Illuminated* (Houghton Mifflin, 2002). George Hagen in 2005 for his novel *The Laments* (Random House, 2004), Kiyo Sato in 2008 for *Dandelion Through the Crack* (Willow Valley Press, 2007), and Linda Himmelstein in 2010 for *The King of Vodka* (HarperBusiness, 2009).

William Saroyan, an American writer and playwright, was a Pulitzer Prize and Academy Award winner best known for his short stories about humorous experiences of immigrant families and children in California. Much of Saroyan's other work is clearly autobiographical, although similar in style and technique to fiction. Saroyan was the fourth child of Armenian immigrants. He battled his way through poverty and rose to literary prominence in the early 1930s when national magazines began publishing his short stories, most notably *The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze*. Published collections of those stories include, *My Name Is Aram*, *Inhale & Exhale*, *Three Times Three*, and *Peace, It's Wonderful*. Saroyan also had success as a playwright on Broadway and a writer of screenplays in Hollywood. His notable successes include: *My Heart's in the Highlands*, *The Time of Your Life*, *The Beautiful People*, and *The Human Comedy*. *The Time of Your Life* was awarded the Pulitzer.

Stanford University Libraries supports the teaching, learning and research mandates of the University through delivery of bibliographic and other information resources and services to faculty, students and staff. It is tackling the challenges of the digital age while continuing the development, preservation and conservation of its extensive print, media and manuscript collections.

The William Saroyan Foundation was founded by the author on December 30, 1966 and remains active under a Board of Trustees. Commencing in 1990, the Trustees set a goal of bringing together into one single archive his entire literary estate. A decision was finally made by the Trustees to offer Stanford University the assembled Saroyan Literary Collection with provisions that would safeguard in perpetuity one of the rare treasure troves in American literature, carrying on the legacy of Fresno, California's own native son, William Saroyan.

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Web resources:

[Entry Form](#)

[Saroyan Prize Website](#)