

VICKSBURG ARTS

ARTS & CULTURE
INSPIRE • ENRICH • EDUCATE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Eltine DeYoung

Email: admin@vicksburgarts.org

Phone: 269 615 9121

Local Writers Honored at Vicksburg Arts' 11th Annual Tournament of Writers Celebration

Vicksburg, MI – On Thursday, April 24, 2025, Vicksburg Arts hosted the **11th Annual Tournament of Writers Celebration** bringing together writers, families, and community members from across Southwest Michigan to honor creativity, storytelling, and community spirit.

The Tournament of Writers, a signature program of Vicksburg Arts, celebrates the courage and artistry of writers of all ages. This year's event welcomed over **150 attendees** and recognized dozens of talented individuals who submitted entries in **fiction, nonfiction, and poetry** across **youth, teen, and adult divisions**.

Writers had the opportunity to be **coached by professional writers, educators, and editors**, receiving guidance and support as they developed their work. A dedicated **team of judges** carefully evaluated each submission, offering thoughtful feedback and encouragement to all participants.

Highlights of the evening included:

Live readings from selected works

Announcement of awards and Honorable Mention awards

Presentation of the **Gilbert & Ivy Prize** and the **Tournament Grand Prize**

The official release of **Tournament of Writers Collection, Volume XI**

The **Grand Prize Winner** was **Reagan Motson** with *A Sinking Boat*, an entry in the **Teen Poetry section**. A full list of award winners and honorable mentions is available at vicksburgarts.org.

In response to a record number of submissions, this year's collection is divided into **two volumes**—one for youth and teen writers and one for adult writers—giving even more space for creativity and storytelling.

The evening featured a keynote address by **Leeanne Seaver**, an award-winning writer, biographer, ghostwriter, and longtime supporter of Vicksburg Arts, who spoke about the power of sharing stories and the bravery it takes to write and be read.

This year's Tournament was **dedicated to the memory of David T. Reisterer**, a beloved local poet, author, and storyteller, whose lifelong passion for literature continues to inspire.

The Tournament of Writers is made possible through the support of many generous partners, including the **National Endowment for the Arts, Meijer**, the **Gilbert & Ivy Bookstore**, the **Vicksburg District Library**, the **Vicksburg Foundation**, the **Michigan Arts & Culture Council**, the **Gilmore Foundation**, and **Jumping Dog Design**.

Vicksburg Arts remains committed to making the arts accessible for all, with scholarship opportunities available to ensure that financial barriers never prevent participation.

For more information about Vicksburg Arts programs, upcoming events, or ways to support the arts in our community, visit **vicksburgarts.org**.