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Winners of Youth Ink 2020 announced

Submitted by Erika Rosenberg



Kaylin Chang

The Orinda Junior Women's Club is pleased to announce the winners of Youth Ink 2020, the annual creative writing contest open to all middle school students who live in or attend school in Orinda. This year's prompt was The Gift, though entrants were welcomed to write on the theme of their choice.

This year's top three prize winners are:

1st Place: Kaylin Chang, Bright as the Sun

2nd Place: Emma Wong, Jin's Gift

3rd Place: Holly Carysforth, East

The following were awarded honorable mentions for their commendable entries:

Carson Blair The Gift

Kaia Bonham Bea

Josslyn Grover Song of Life

Pateel Haroupian The Monarch

Butterflies Plead for Our Help

Indie Lee A Well of Memories

Jewel Mendiola The Gift

Hana Shukairy The Everlasting Break

Elise Vansant Four Words

Jason Wagner The Gift of Immigrants

Jialei Zhang Home at Last

The first, second, and third-place recipients received cash prizes of \$250, \$125, and \$75, respectively. The Honorable Mention recipients received gift certificates to Orinda Books.

While Youth Ink writers are normally celebrated at a springtime awards ceremony, given the circumstances of the global pandemic, an in-person ceremony was not possible this year. The Orinda Junior Women's Club thanks all of the entrants for sharing their talents and is also very thankful to its Youth Ink volunteer judges, who thoughtfully provided time and expertise in reading each entry and contemplating this year's winners among a stellar pool of entries. This year's judges were Sally Bolger, Cynthia Leslie-Bole, Michelle Meyers and Colleen Weems.

The following community sponsors enabled the Orinda Junior Women's Club to offer this year's Youth Ink writing contest to Orinda middle schoolers with their financial support: Friends of the Orinda Library, The Intuitive Writing Project, Lamorinda Arts Council and Orinda Community Foundation.

Emma Wong recorded a video of herself reading her winning entry, Jin's Gift. The video can be seen here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emNjkCRcExs&t=6s>.



Emma Wong

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[back](#)

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