

January 5, 2006

The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

The 2006 Bernard Heeneey Contest For Creative Writing

The Westfield Leader and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* invite entries for its 2006 inaugural Bernard Heeneey Contest For Creative Writing. The contest is being held in celebration of reading and writing as exemplified by the late Mr. Heeneey, who relished publications, particularly newspapers. The writing contest is open to anyone and there is no entry fee.

There is one essential criteria – have fun.

All entries must be original, unpublished work and must be uploaded electronically to goleader.com no later than March 1, 2006. The winning entries will be published in *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* spring edition that will include the *34th Annual This Is Westfield*. This special edition will have a printed circulation of approximately 20,000 copies, and it will be published on the Internet at goleader.com. All qualifying entries will also be included in the Internet edition.

Entries must be between 700 to 1200 words and may or may not be accompanied by a photograph or illustration. In the spirit of creative writing, there are few restrictions on the subject matter and approach. Entries may be of a nature such as past, present or future; history, commentary, sports, art, humor, science fiction, essay, mystery, instructive, illustrative or novelette. Entries, in some fashion, must have a tie to Westfield or the surrounding communities and be suitable for the nature of the publication.

Gift certificate (GC) awards from sponsoring businesses will be made for the “At Large” category and for the “Student” category. “At Large” First Place will receive (GC) \$200; Second Place, \$125; Third Place, \$100. “Student” awards will be presented in three

sub-categories – high school, intermediate and grade school. Three prizes (GC) will be presented for each student sub-category; First Place, \$100; Second Place, \$75 and Third Place, \$50. All winners will receive a Bernard Heeneey Medallion and a certificate.

Entries will be judged by an independent panel without knowledge of the originating author of the work. The judges will have only knowledge of the category of the entry.

General Guidelines: All entries shall be made via the Internet at goleader.com. Detail rules and guidelines will be provided there by January 15. An individual may submit a maximum of three entries.

The judging criteria will include format (spelling, punctuation and grammar), creativity (ideas, subject, impact, plots and approach), wholeness (a beginning, middle and end), suitability (harmony and contribution to the publication), tightness (clarity, structure and transitions), depth (research, use of

quotes, sources and illustrations) and integrity of authorship.

Former Westfield Town Clerk Bernard Heeneey, Jr., who died last year at the age of 56, was a pivotal presence in the town’s government for more than a quarter century. He had a friendly, chipper nature and an ability to get things done. Among many things, he was innovative while making sure everything was done “according to Hoyle.” Mr. Heeneey read several newspapers each day and was proud that many of his letters were published, including one in *The New York Times*.

As publisher of this newspaper, I await with anticipation the creative entries no doubt to be received.

Horace Corbin.

