FLASH FICTION RECAP

BY VICKI YEROIAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On your mark, get set, and go for the gold! Last month, Podium hosted its first ever Flash Fiction Competition! Judged by Podium Co-Founder David L. Robbins, Owner and Founder of KWE Publishing Kim Eley, and Katharine Sands of the Sarah Jane Freymann Literary Agency, eight writers stepped up to the challenge. Having only one hour, these writers dove into the depths of their imaginations and pulled out some of the best mystery, comedy, and fantasy micro stories Greater Richmond has ever seen!

Missed the competition this year?

Don’t worry, check out this recap video of our winners from each genre sharing their stories, and keep a lookout next month for the 3rd Edition of The Podium, our digital alumni magazine, featuring our three Flash Fiction winners and four alumni micro stories!

February Flash Fiction by the numbers

- Total raised: $600
- Numbers of competitors: 8
- Numbers of viewers: 8
- Tickets: $505
- Donations: $95

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THE ANNE. F. WALDRUFF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

BY VICKI YEROIAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In July 2020, long-time Podium supporters Robert and Anne Waldruff started the next chapter in Podium’s ability to support Podium youth as they graduate and enter college and career. The Waldruff’s started Podium’s Pedestal Fund specifically to help Podium alumni afford college tuition and gain professional experience. Alumni build their resumes and professional development when Podium provides stipends for them to come back and host a program or by paying alumni for accepted writing submissions to *The Podium*, our annual, digital alumni magazine. Now, after raising funds for the past two years, Podium is finally ready to offer The Anne F. Waldruff Excellence in Education Scholarship.

Podium's Pedestal Fund is offering three, $5,000 Excellence in Education scholarships. Awards will be distributed to Richmond City Public School seniors who demonstrate school and community leadership, academic achievement, and participation with Podium. This merit-based scholarship is renewable on an annual, one-time basis. Applications opened on Jan 17th and close tomorrow, on March 31st. Learn more about the scholarship [here](#), and please keep a lookout for award announcements in April!
Our winter programs have been one for the books! This was our first in-person winter programming since COVID-19 struck, and we focused on growth and retention in-between our fall and winter programs. We have already served over 160 students during our fall and winter sessions, and most Podium youth maintained their attendance after their winter break!

Running 13 programs across 10 schools and community partners, our winter session has consisted of quite a few peak moments. We expanded back into Henrico County Public Schools with a pilot program at Highland Springs HS and came back to Huguenot HS. We held our first open mic night at the brand new Boys and Girls Club Teen Center in December, celebrating our students’ hard work and dedication to their writing. Finally, this Feb, we partnered with George Wythe HS to bring a "Pizza and Poetry" night for students to share poetry on resilience and self-care, all while sharing in some delicious treats. That's what I call a comeback season!

Be on the lookout for more exciting things like our new winter 2022 zine, "Resilience." We are also working hard to expand into new partnerships to bring our critical programming to more regions. So many great things are in store for the Podium fam, and we can't wait for you to see!
On April 28th at the U-Turn Atrium, 2101 Maywill St., from 5:30 - 8:30pm, Podium will host our RVA Awesome Adult Spelling Bee! Last year, the Bee was hosted virtually. It brought together people from across the country in celebration of spelling, youth excellence, and the mission of Podium. Despite the resounding success of this virtual event, we cannot tell you how excited we are to get back together in person and spell our hearts out!

The RVA Awesome Adult Spelling Bee is a networking and fundraising event, benefitting Podium RVA, for teams of 3 hardcore spellers to compete against one another for the ultimate glory! First and second place winners receive a BEE-utiful trophy and major bragging rights!

Don't fancy yourself a speller? That's okay! There are several ways to get involved; you can cheer on our spellers or come out to compete for raffles, auction, and Best Bee Costume prizes yourself!

Light refreshments, a drink ticket, and a printed youth literary journal are included with all ticketed entries. Get your tickets today at podiumrva.org/RVABee