



BESSIE HEAD HERITAGE TRUST

Registered as a trust in the Deeds Office of Botswana under no. MA 277/2007

P.O. Box 70401
Gaborone, Botswana
ph. (+267) 3913417/71602279
<http://www.bessiehead.org>
email bessiehead@gmail.com

Thomas Holzinger
Gasenone Kediseng
Mary Lederer
Leloba Molema
Tiro Sebina
Goodwill Tlokwe
Trustees

18 June 2010

Press Release

The BESSIE HEAD HERITAGE TRUST, together with PENTAGON PUBLISHERS, is pleased to announce the winners of the 2010 Bessie Head Literature Awards:

Novel

1st prize	P2,500	Ms Tshetsana Senau	<i>Travelling to the Sun: The Diary of Ruth</i>
2nd place	books	Mr Patrick Melusi Mtunzie	<i>The Calabash of Life in the Diaspora</i>
3rd place	books	Mr Wazha Lopang	<i>If Mother Only Knew</i>

Short Story

1st prize	P1,250	Mr Legodile Seganabeng	"The Moon Has Eyes"
2nd place	books	Ms Atang Mogome	"The Evil Messenger of God"
3rd place	books	Ms Jelena Ivancevic	"The Rise and the Fall in All of Us"

Children's Story

1st prize	P1,250	Ms Jenny Robson	"The Right Time"
2nd place	books	Mrs Reshoketjoe Lilford	"The Christmas Dress"
3rd place	books	Ms Dabilo Malebogo Mokobi	"Grampi"

On Saturday, **26 June 2010**, Prof. F. Mnthali of the UB English Department will give the keynote remarks. Immediately afterwards, Ms Penny Moanakwena of the Reading Association of Botswana will award the above prizes in the **National Museum** in Gaborone, in a ceremony beginning at **10:30 A.M.** Admission is free, and all are welcome. The event will include readings by the winners and runners-up, an open mike for literary performers, and the launch of the works of the 2009 winners in book form by Pentagon Publishers as part of their *Bessie Head Series* of writing in English from Botswana.

Date	26 June 2010
Time	10:30 a.m.
Venue	Handling Room, National Museum, Gaborone
All Welcome	Free Admission

The monetary prizes for the first-place winners are sponsored by Pentagon Publishers, Gaborone. They comprise P2,500 for best novel, P1,250 for best short story, and P1,250 for best children's story. Second- and third-place winners will receive a set of books from Pentagon and from Exclusive Books, Gaborone.

Details about next year's contest, including rules and guidelines for submitting entries, will be published soon on the TRUST website at www.bessiehead.org. The results of all previous competitions are also found there.

The BESSIE HEAD LITERATURE AWARDS are sponsored by Pentagon Publishers and administered by the BESSIE HEAD HERITAGE TRUST. The Trust was established in June 2007 to promote the life and work of Bessie Head both here and abroad. We believe this competition is important for two reasons: (a) to help preserve Bessie Head's legacy in Botswana, since she is our country's most famous writer who has gained broad recognition overseas; and (b) to encourage the development of local literature in various genres in English.

Bessie Head herself was generous with her time when students asked her for assistance and advice, and we believe that this generosity is best reflected in a vigorous effort to promote literature and reading in Botswana. It is through literature, music, and all other forms of cultural imagination that both personal spirit and national identity are nurtured and strengthened.

For further information, please contact Dr. **Leloba Molema**, secretary of the Bessie Head Heritage Trust (phone 3913417), or Mr. **Tiro Sebina**, acting chair of the Trust (cell 71602279).

This PRESS RELEASE may also be found in full at <http://www.bessiehead.org/awards/winners-2010.htm>.

The web page for the TRUST may be found at <http://www.bessiehead.org/owners/owners.htm>.