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The New “Portia Steele Award” for Poetry & Prose

CASTRO VALLEY, CA – February 21, 2006 – The Portia Steele Award

Organization? is pleased to announce two new annual awards for writers. The awards, conceived by Portia’s husband Dennis Steele, are designed to commemorate the love and passion that Portia had for Poetry and Prose and the appreciation of the magic and power for the written word. The awards that are available will be for *Excellence in Poetry* and *Excellence in Prose*. They invite women 50 years of age and older to compete for a \$150.00 prize.

S. Portia Steele was born July 24, 1937 in Brooklyn, New York. She attended Lincoln High School in Brooklyn and was a graduate of Cal State Hayward where she majored in Communications. During the years 1987 until 1998, she published a monthly international newsletter entitled “*Prosetry*”. Many promising poets and storytellers had their works published for the first time in the newsletter. Throughout her life, Portia had an enduring excitement and enthusiasm for poetry and prose. She was the founder and instructor of *Women on Writing*, a seminar for published writers sponsored by the Daly City Senior Center in Daly City, California. Between the years of 1992 and 2002, as its facilitator, she helped a myriad of women (and some men, too) with their writing and publishing. One task she would ask of her students was to

submit their work for publication and to do so on a regular basis. As a result many of her students were published throughout the state and nationally.

Her husband Dennis Steele has endowed this award to honor Portia's memory and lifelong commitment to writing and writers.

"The guidelines for the awards are simple", said Dennis. "The Prose and Poetry awards are for women 50 and older. The Prose submission is to be no more than 500 words and the poetry submission is limited to a page and a half. This is in keeping with Portia's philosophy which she taught and wrote by: "less is more". The deadline for the awards is April 15, 2006.

The San Francisco/Peninsula Branch of the California Writers Club is conducting the contest, judging the submissions and will be announcing the winners at its May 20th meeting at Hobee's Restaurant in San Carlos. "I'm so thankful to Bree LeMaire and the California Writers Club for bringing these prizes to their members", said Steele. I'd like to invite anyone who is interested in our contest to visit <http://portiasteeleaward.org> for further information," he concluded.

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