

## SHORT STORY CONTEST – CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The 55Plus PGA Book Club is pleased to invite short story submissions to be published in an anthology later in the year.

# YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A WRITER TO TELL A GREAT STORY!

Tell us a story that touches, in some way on your Goan background. It could be funny or sad; it could be based on fact or fiction and you could win one of many prizes\*.

Enter any number of stories. There is no entry fee.

Remember the stories you heard from relatives or friends that you thought so interesting; or the unbelievable things that you experienced and wished you could tell? Tell us, about it; we'll help edit your stories to make it into print. This contest is about the stories, not the style they are written in. Don't feel like writing but have a story to tell? Call us; we'll help write it for you. What can be easier?

Eligibility: Open to all Canadian residents with a Goan connection

Genre: Fiction or non-fiction such as a memoir or an essay with a "Goan flavour".

Length: Minimum 1000 words; maximum 2500 words

Deadline for submissions: November 15, 2009

Coordinator: Rudi Rodrigues (rudirod@yahoo.ca)

Here's how to enter: Submit your story, memoir and essay (previously published or unpublished) of a minimum 1000 words; maximum 2500 words by email to rudirod@yahoo.ca. Submit a cover letter that includes the title of the story, your name, address, phone, email, word-count and your bio of maximum 50 words. You may also submit your entry by mail to: Rudi Rodrigues, 4552 Tribal Court, Mississauga Ontario L4Z 2R1.

Participants whose stories are selected for publication will receive a free copy of the book when published and will also be eligible to buy more copies at cost.

\* Prizes will be picked randomly from all entries and include works by Goan writers and artists.

**WRITING TIPS:** In writing a short story, the first decision the writer has to make is about the point of view (POV)--that is, through whose eyes the story is being told, first person or third person.

1. A first person character begins with the pronoun I and is effective for stories of adventure and action. The limitation is that he/she cannot know what the other characters are thinking.
2. Usually the third person (he or she, John or Jane) POV is best because it allows the narrator freedom to move around the characters; the narrator also knows what goes inside the minds of other characters.

3. Try to "show the story" as it happens through dialogue and action instead of telling the story.
4. Know the substance of your story. What's it about? What's the purpose? Why are you writing it?
5. Know how much time (one day, one month or more) the story will fill so that the reader will be clear.
6. Use dialogue to advance the plot and to reveal character. Avoid small talk (Good morning, have a seat, nice weather, etc)
7. Make an outline of the story--setting (place and time), characters, beginning, middle and end. For example, a character wants something and takes action to get it. BUT his desire is opposed by another character, causing conflict (internal or external). A story is only as strong as your antagonist.
8. Be concrete (not abstract), specific (not general), innovative (avoid cliches)
9. Revise your first draft (cut out the fat, go for tight and lean sentences)