

Dr. Freidenberg,

Thank you very much for your consideration. I am extremely excited to receive the Sebastian Herstein Memorial Award. However, more strongly than the excitement, I feel honored to be a part of this contest that celebrates the passion of Brother Herstein. I will encourage more of my brothers at Gamma Phi Wesleyan to submit next year to ensure the success of this contest.

As for the award money, this upcoming summer, I am going to map out trips to various places in the US that have significance for me. In writing stories, I really try to focus on a particular memory and to reproduce it exactly. Like anyone, I have many memories that are not especially whole; that is, I have only retained a fragment of what it meant to me. By revisiting Shoreham, New York, and Lancaster County, PA, I may be able to describe the scenery better, to remember a bit more about what happened there. These are places I haven't been since the death of my maternal grandparents and to go back now could help to fill in some holes for me.

And with the remaining money, I am going to purchase the great works that I have idolized. My book collection is relatively non-existent while my library card has seen many transactions. I would love to have a few collections from Li-Young Lee, James Arlington Wright, Phillip Levine, and William Carlos Williams to refer to. I would also like to have a few works from William Maxwell and Charles Baxter. These are works that I have read through but that I have had to give back. This award will allow me to get closer to what inspired me in the first place. Saul Bellow once said, "a writer is a reader moved to emulation" – and at this phase in the game, I am most certainly a reader, but hopefully this award will aid me in my emulation

Thanks again,
Glenn