The year 2019 brings our newest BCDA initiative – Living Connected – which will also be our theme for the 4th annual Silver Pen Writing contest.

Staying connected – whether to family, friends or social groups – helps us to focus on others. Being present and being positive are among the things we value more as we get older. Listening more, learning more, being more thankful for the journey and where we are – and what we can share and give to others because of our experience. We look forward, as always, to the wonderful stories that will be shared this year. Make sure to send your submissions in by September 6th!

2019 SILVER PEN WRITING CONTEST

Living Connected!

ESSAY GUIDELINES

• Author must be 60+ years old and a resident of Baltimore County.
• Work must be original, unpublished and created in 2019.
• Entries can be submitted in two different formats: ESSAY or POEM.

PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded to the top three winners in each category.

All submissions must be submitted electronically to digest@baltimorecountymd.gov. Please note “Silver Pen Writing Contest” in the subject line. If you need assistance sending your entry electronically, visit your local senior center or call 410-887-3517.

ENTRY DEADLINE

All entries must be received by September 6th, 2019 at 11:59 p.m. All entries will receive a confirmation e-mail reply. All entries will be on display at The Power of Age Expo at the Timonium Fairgrounds on October 30, 2019. Finalists will be noted as such on their entries on display at Expo and will be invited to the awards presentation where the winners will be announced. First, second, and third place winners will be published in the Time of Your Life Digest.

FREE WORKSHOP FOR WRITERS

We are pleased to offer a special one hour writing workshop in advance of our contest at the following senior centers.

Rosedale             May 3rd at 10 a.m.
Essex                   May 8th at 11 a.m.
Overlea               May 8th at 1 p.m.
Jacksonville       June 4th at 10:30 a.m.
Catonsville         June 11th at 12:45 p.m.
Parkville              June 19th at 10 a.m.
Bykota                 June 26th at 12:30 p.m.
Pikesville            July 10th at 1 p.m.

RSVP recommended at 410-887-3517

The Silver Pen Writing Contest is held to encourage and recognize writing among adults.

We encourage participants to attend more than one workshop!
Judging Criteria

All eligible entries will be judged on the following criteria: one-third (1/3) writing quality, including creative presentation; one-third (1/3) content depth; one-third (1/3) appropriateness to theme, particularly the ability to capture a timeless idea, insight, or theme (big or small). All decisions by the judges are final and binding.

Rules and Regulations

1. Only unpublished manuscripts are accepted. Unpublished and published writers are encouraged to compete. Baltimore County Department of Aging employees are not eligible.

2. No previously published work for which remuneration was received is considered for any award.

3. Single-space and type your manuscript in Microsoft Word. Poetry may be submitted in free form. Title and number each page in the top right corner. Times Roman (14) is preferred.

4. Do not put your name on any page as manuscripts are judged anonymously.

5. Please include a separate cover page/first sheet with the title, category of your piece, and your name, senior center affiliation, age, phone number, email and mailing address. If you have no senior center affiliation, please indicate that.

6. All submissions will be posted online at www.baltimorecountymd.gov unless otherwise noted on entry and be subject to editing.

7. **No pdf formatted submissions allowed.**

Categories

**INFORMAL ESSAY**

A short composition considering a single topic and usually personal in approach. A maximum of 1,000 words will be accepted. Essay entries are limited to three (3) per author.

**POETRY**

The total number of words may include more than one poem. If more than one poem is submitted within the word limit, all poems are considered, but only one poem can receive an award. Only one cover sheet is required for all of the poems in one entry. A maximum of 500 words will be accepted.

Awards

Each entrant will be invited to the awards ceremony. The top three winners in each category will be published in the *Time of Your Life Digest*. Submission manuscripts that are not published can be found in a notebook at the Baltimore County Department of Aging, 611 Central Avenue, Towson, MD 21204, following the awards ceremony. The manuscript book is not available for checkout or reproduction. All manuscripts will be on display at The Power of Age Expo for guests to read and posted online at www.baltimorecountymd.gov unless otherwise noted on entry.

**AWARDS CEREMONY**

An awards ceremony will be held at The Power of Age Expo at the Timonium Fairgrounds on Wednesday, October 30th.