

2019 **30th Anniversary**

Oklahoma

Book Awards



Welcome

30th Anniversary

Oklahoma

2019

**Book
Awards**

Presented by

the **Oklahoma Center for the Book** in the Oklahoma Department
of Libraries and the **Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book**

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This evening would not be possible without
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BOOK AWARD

2019 Oklahoma Book Awards

Skirvin Hilton Hotel Friday April 12, 2019

Welcome

Connie Armstrong

Director, Oklahoma Center for the Book

Greetings from the State Library

Melody Kellogg

Director, Oklahoma Department of Libraries

Master of Ceremonies

Steven Baker

President, Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book

Poetry Reading

Heather Laurel Jensen

National Student Poet, Southwest Region

Fiction Award Presentation

Richard Rouillard

Board Member, Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book

Design/Illustration/Photography Award Presentation

Troy Milligan

Board Member, Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book

Poetry Award Presentation

Jessica Isaacs

Professor of English, Language Arts and Humanities
Seminole State College

Children/Young Adult Presentation

Julie Dill

Adjunct Professor, Rose State College

Non-fiction Award Presentation

Kelley Riha

Board Member, Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book

Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation
Honoring **William Bernhardt**

Bill McCloud

Announcements

Steven Baker

Music provided by Jill Justice

The book sale and signing continues after dinner. Please enjoy visiting with the book award medalists and finalists.
Best of Books contributes all proceeds of book sales to the Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book.



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Book Award Finalists

Fiction

November Road Lou Berney William Morrow

Frank Guidry, a loyal lieutenant to New Orleans mob boss Carlos Marcello, realizes within hours of the John F. Kennedy assassination his luck may be running out. People connected with Marcello are being murdered, and Guidry, thinking he may be next, decides to vanish. On the road, he picks up Charlotte, a woman with two children, hoping to escape to a new life. As the two fugitives begin to know each other, they soon discover they are falling in love. Can they elude those chasing them and live a life they both desperately want? Lou Berney is the author of *Gunshot Straight* and *Whiplash*. His novel *The Long and Far Away Gone* won the Edgar Award and the 2016 Oklahoma Book Award for fiction. He lives with his wife, Christine, in Oklahoma City.

Forty Dead Men Donis Casey Poisoned Pen Press

In this latest Alafair Tucker book, Casey explores post-traumatic stress disorder. Alafair is elated her son Gee Dub has returned home to Oklahoma from World War I. However, she soon realizes he has changed. One day, Gee Dub encounters Holly Johnson, a woman searching for her husband, Dan, a soldier who disappeared at the war's end. As he attempts to assist Holly, Alafair makes a shocking discovery of her own. Gee Dub sleeps with two cartridge boxes under his pillow. Each contains the names of twenty "dead men," and one holds a single bullet. Alafair realizes that all war wounds are not physical. When Dan is found dead, Gee Dub is suspected of his murder. Casey is a seven-time Oklahoma Book Award finalist. She lives in Tempe, Arizona.

The Horned Owl Lu Clifton Two Shadows Books

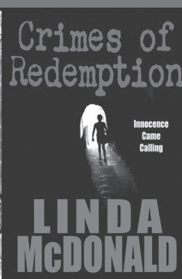
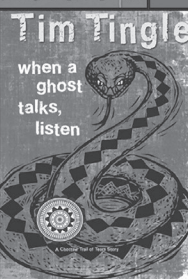
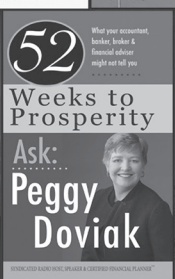
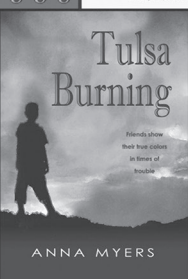
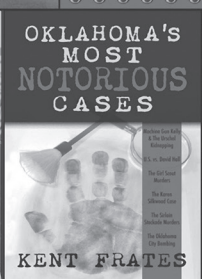
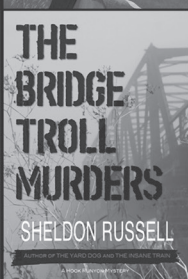
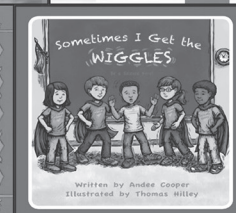
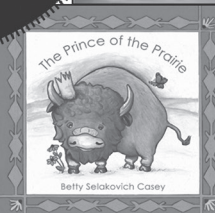
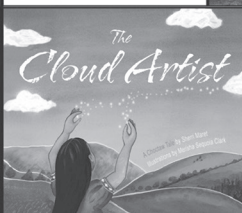
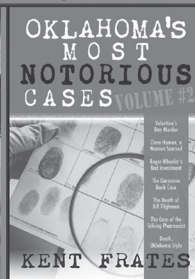
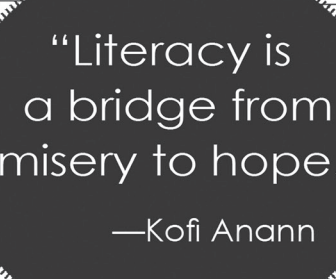
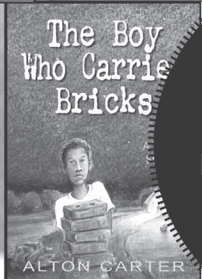
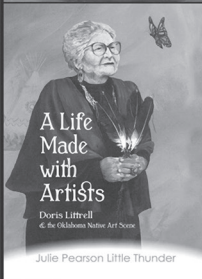
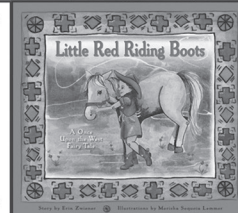
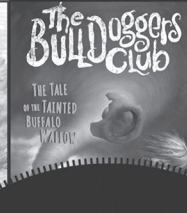
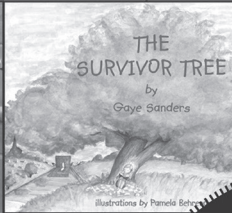
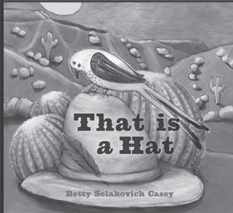
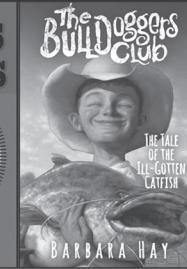
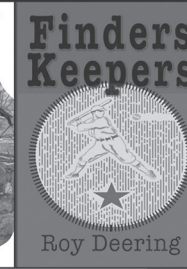
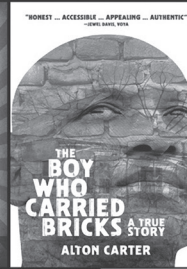
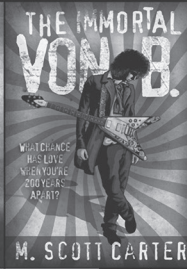
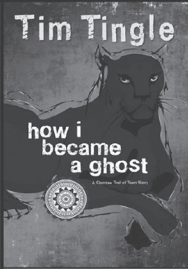
At the request of Choctaw Nation Tribal Council members, Tribal Police Detective Sam Chitto begins an unauthorized investigation of Muriel Simpson's murder. Bobby Taneyhill, a teenager, has been charged by local authorities with the gruesome murder, although the evidence against him is circumstantial. The victim had been working at the Spiro Mounds Archaeology Center, where Chitto's father Will and his partner Bert Gilly had been murdered a decade before. Chitto ignores his supervisor's order to investigate only the Simpson homicide, and delves into both cases from a remote cabin near the Spiro Mounds. Clifton's books include *Freaky Fast Frankie Joe*, *Immortal Max*, *Scalp Dance*, and *The Bone Picker*. Her book *Seeking Cassandra* won the 2017 Oklahoma Book Award for young adults. She lives in Davis, Illinois.

Undercurrents Mary Anna Evans Poisoned Pen Press

Archeologist Faye Longchamp has traveled alone to Memphis to assess a site. While there, she follows a young child (Kali), wandering along a creek bank. Faye soon discovers a dying woman, buried

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alive. Turns out, the woman is Kali's mother. Although she is not welcomed by the community, Faye chooses to stay and help the now-orphaned Kali. As time passes, some locals begin to confide to her that other women have been murdered in the same method. When police fail to act on new information, Faye sets out to find the serial killer stalking Memphis. This is Evans's eleventh book in the Faye Longchamp series. Her book *Burials* was a finalist in the 2018 Oklahoma Book Awards for fiction. Evans is an assistant professor at the University of Oklahoma, where she teaches writing. She resides in Washington, Oklahoma.

***Betrayal at the Buffalo Ranch* Sara Sue Hoklotubbe** The University of Arizona Press

Sadie Walela has deep ties to her Cherokee community and to the land. She is disturbed to learn her new neighbor Angus allows rich customers to kill buffalo for fun. She is more concerned to discover that Angus and a recent murder victim share a violent past. She also understands Angus is swindling Cherokees out of their land. Moreover, he is lying about the disappearance of a rare, white buffalo. When Sadie's friend is employed by Angus, she races against time to uncover the truth about Angus, before her friend becomes his next victim. A Cherokee tribal citizen, Hoklotubbe's books include *Deception on All Accounts*, *The American Café*, and *Sinking Suspicions*. She and her husband live in Colorado.

***Death of a Rainmaker* Laurie Loewenstein** Akashic Books

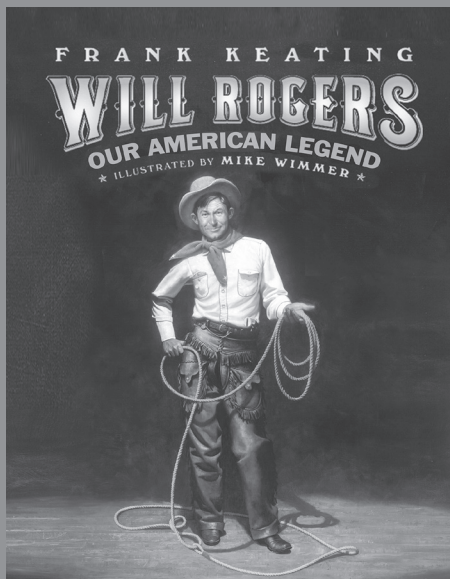
Sheriff Temple Jennings finds his job overwhelming in 1930s Oklahoma. He is facing a formidable opponent in the upcoming election; he has the daunting task of carrying out farm foreclosures; and his wife, Etha, continues to grieve the death of their eight-year-old son. Now, he and his ambitious young deputy must investigate the murder of a rainmaker, bludgeoned to death during a massive dust storm. Evidence suggests Carmine, a teenager employed with the Civilian Conservation Corps, is responsible. However, Etha is not convinced of his guilt. When she sets out to prove his innocence, a darker set of secrets are revealed. Loewenstein is the author of the best-selling novel *Unmentionables*. She currently lives in Columbia, Maryland.

***Flying Jenny* Theasa Tuohy** Akashic Books

The year is 1929, and optimism abounds as Americans are celebrating "The Roaring Twenties." Ever since *Time Magazine's* first "Person of the Year" Charles Lindbergh successfully flew solo across the Atlantic in 1927, people are enamored with flying. Stunt pilots are especially fascinating as they cheat death with each performance. Jenny Flynn, a young female pilot, is defying gender roles in pursuit of the sky. Laura Bailey, a brash reporter is breaking through her own glass ceiling as she chases Jenny's story as well as the truth about her own mysterious father. Tuohy is the daughter and namesake of a pioneer female pilot who flew an old World War I "Jenny" with an OX-5 engine. She is the author of *The Five O'Clock Follies*. Tuohy lives in Manhattan, New York.

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FOR

*WILL ROGERS:
OUR AMERICAN LEGEND*



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Design/Illustration/Photography

Little Loksi **Eli Corbin** Illustration White Dog Press

This children's book is notable for its spacious, uncluttered design. Spreads consist primarily of pages filled with large, legible, display type facing pages of stylized drawings of animals. The use of color is sparse; pages are predominantly filled with a single color with just a light wash of white added to ornament the black line drawings. The illustrations throughout resemble traditional Native American artwork as found on pottery or other artifacts, fitting for a story that uses Choctaw-language vocabulary. This is Corbin's debut as a book illustrator. He received his graphic design certification from Kiamichi Technology Center in Durant.

Will Rogers: Our American Legend **Mike Wimmer** Illustration Oklahoma Hall of Fame Publishing

Mike Wimmer's fifth collaboration with author Frank Keating is again distinguished by characteristically masterful painting. Wimmer's refined technique and subtle sense of humor may remind some of Norman Rockwell. Just as with Rockwell, the luminous illustrations support the narrative with subtle drama and eloquence, necessitating minimal text to complete the telling of the story. Wimmer is a two-time Oklahoma Book Award winner in illustration. The Muskogee native has produced artwork for some of the largest companies in America. He currently teaches and maintains a studio in Savannah, Georgia.

Centering Modernism: J. Jay McVicker and Postwar Art **Tony Roberts** cover design

Tony Roberts and **Cleo Vastardis** interior design University of Oklahoma Press

Numerous high-quality, often full page, reproductions of artwork by Oklahoma modernist J. Jay McVicker are supplemented and complimented by elegant and legible typography and measured use of white space. With scrupulous attention to detail—from caption placement to the size of page numbering and chapter heading—economical layout and composition throughout are designed to focus attention on the art and attract the reader to the story of the artist. Roberts is design and production manager at OU Press and a two-time Oklahoma Book Award medalist. Vastardis teaches Graphic Design at Metro Technology Center in Oklahoma City.

Visions of the Tallgrass **Julie Rushing** design • **Harvey Payne** photography

University of Oklahoma Press

This book is effectively designed to showcase the spectacular photography of Harvey Payne, while featuring nine informative companion essays by James Ronda, his fellow prairie enthusiast. Payne's photography captures the majesty and vitality of Oklahoma's Tallgrass Prairie and its many denizens. No matter how vast or how small the subject, the photographs create the feeling of precious time frozen for our examination and appreciation. Payne received the 1997 Oklahoma Book Award for *Big Bluestem: A Journey into the Tall Grass*. Rushing is the 2015 Oklahoma Book Award medalist in design for *A Legacy in Arms*.

Love Can Be Christopher Lee book design • Joel Sartore cover photography

Steven Walker cover design • JJ Ritchey Illustration Kirkpatrick Foundation

The design of *Love Can Be* conveys the warmth and richness of its subject matter. Details, mostly transparent to the average reader—the typeface, the leading, the use of rules, etc.—quietly suggest a meticulousness that honors the stories. From the judicious embossing on the cover and spine to the graceful line drawings on the endpaper, and the faux dust cover flap, this limited-edition paperback reflects the quality of a high-cost, and cherished, hardback book. Lee is creative director at liquidfish in Oklahoma City. Walker and Ritchey regularly share their talents in *Oklahoma Today* and other publications. Wildlife photographer Sartore was born in Ponca City.

Friends Stick Together Hannah E Harrison Illustration Penguin Random House

Harrison is best known for the gentle and whimsical animal characters that populate her stories. Her artwork is fanciful, fun, and colorful while remaining finely detailed and true to each respective animal. Rupert the Rhino has a wide selection of sweater vests and bow ties covering his rough and wrinkled hide. Levi the Tickbird has detailed, lifelike feathers beneath his shorts, and a t-shirt. Harrison, who makes her home in Ada, was an Oklahoma Book Award winner in this category in 2015 for her book *Extraordinary Jane*; she was also a finalist in the years 2016 and 2017.

A Chickasaw Historical Atlas Gentry Fisher design Chickasaw Press

This large format book showcases both historical maps (the oldest being the famously controversial Vinland Map of 1437) and recent charts from the Chickasaw Nation's Department of GeoSpatial Information and Planning Departments. Full page, colorful images draw the reader into a progression of Chickasaw history in Oklahoma and America, from the earliest explorers to the present day. The black and white endpaper art illustrates a medley of historical milestones, serving as both a foreword on one end of the book and a coda on the other. The handsome, tactile cover is designed to replicate full-grained leather with tooled lettering and an inlaid silver compass rose. Fisher is a book designer and content specialist for the Chickasaw Nation. She was a finalist in design last year for *Good Night, Trilobite*.

Poetry

Nothing But the Blood Laura Apol Michigan State University Press

Apol's poems in this collection are an unflinching look at the truths of a middle-age life. The powerful, raw imagery is layered and timeless, and can elicit both gut wrenching and elevating reactions in the audience. The active emotion of the poetry transcends the simple words, forging a connection to the reader. Apol lived in Oklahoma during the 1990s and continues to visit the state several times each year. Her collection *Crossing the Ladder of Sun* received the 2004 Oklahoma Book Award. She is an associate professor of education at Michigan State University.

***The Shadow Cast* Julane Borth** Julane Borth Publisher

Borth's poems in this collection take her audience on a journey through the seasons of life, with stops along the way to celebrate the simple, sometimes daily, moments. Throughout her exploration, the poet both observes and asserts herself as a participant in the experiences we all take part in as members of a family. Borth lives in Oklahoma City.

***Not a Prodigal* Sharon Edge Martin** Village Books Press

Martin's authentic and genuine voice cuts to the heart of issues and relations. Drawing on her experiences as a teacher, writer, worker, wife, mother, daughter, and citizen, the poems embrace life in all of its mess and glory. In addition to writing and reciting her poetry, Martin is a certified reading specialist, children's author, past president of the Oklahoma Writers' Federation, and a political essayist. She lives in Oilton.

***Dark Sister* Linda Rodriguez** Mammoth Publications

Rodriguez embraces both her Cherokee and Latina voices to share these matrilineal stories of history and family experience. Filled with personal tales and family lore, the poetry is a glimpse into the life and times of a Mestiza woman of color who has been shaped by both of her heritages. Rodriguez lived in Sentinal, Oklahoma, where she attended school. Today she makes her home in Kansas City, Missouri.

***Red Riding Hood's Sister* Sarah Webb** Purple Flag Press

Webb employs archetypal elements to create a poetic memoir that details one woman's escape from domestic abuse. In doing so, she rediscovers—in a different, kinder light—her younger self; and provides a path of escape for other victims. Webb taught English for more than a decade at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha. She lives in Burnet, Texas.

***The Last Blue Sky* Ron Wallace** TJMF Publishing

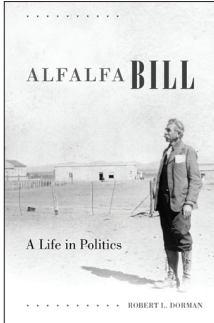
Wallace's poems are effortless, smooth like whiskey and warm leather. In this collection he elevates the American West, summoning the Oklahoma and small town spirits to pull all of us in to a place of discovery and recognition. Wallace is now a five-time finalist for the Oklahoma Book Award. He won last year for his collection of poetry *Renegade*. He lives in Durant where he is an adjunct professor of English at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Children/Young Adult

***Friends Stick Together* Hannah E. Harrison** Penguin Random House

In this poignant tale of friendship, Rupert and Levi have absolutely nothing in common! Rupert is a rhino who likes to read dictionaries, listen to classical music, and eat cucumber sandwiches without the crust. Levi is a tickbird who likes corny jokes, making armpit farts, and popping wheelies. Levi shows up at school one day, attaches himself to Rupert, and announces they are going to be best

Congratulations to our finalists!

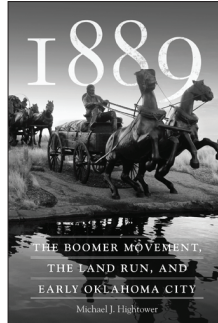


★ NONFICTION

Alfalfa Bill

A Life in Politics

By Robert L. Dorman

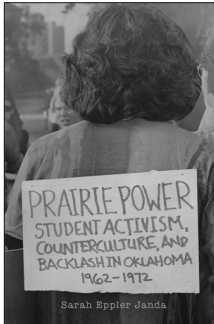


★ NONFICTION

1889

The Boomer Movement, the Land Run, and Early Oklahoma City

By Michael J. Hightower

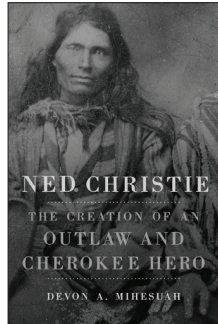


★ NONFICTION

Prairie Power

Student Activism, Counterculture, and Backlash in Oklahoma 1962-1972

By Sarah Eppler Janda

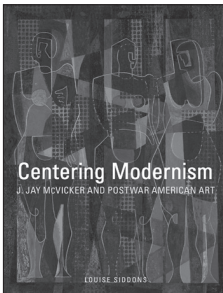


★ NONFICTION

Ned Christie

The Creation of an Outlaw and Cherokee Hero

By Devon A. Mihesuah



★ DESIGN/ILLUSTRATION

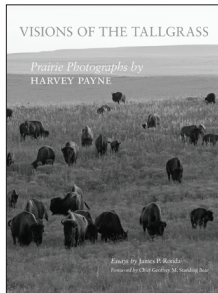
Centering Modernism

J. Jay McVicker and Postwar American Art

by Louise Siddons

cover design by Tony Roberts and interior

design by Tony Roberts and Cleo Vastardis



★ DESIGN/ILLUSTRATION

Visions of the Tallgrass

Prairie Photographs by Harvey Payne

Essays by James P. Ronda and book

design by Julie Rushing



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friends. Rupert, however, wants no part of Levi and his crude ways. Rupert does everything he can think of to separate himself from Levi. When Levi finally leaves him alone, Rupert discovers he misses the boisterous tickbird. Harrison is the author and illustrator of *Remy and Lulu*, *Bernice Gets Carried Away*, and *My Friend Maggie*. She won the 2015 Oklahoma Book Award in illustration for *Extraordinary Jane*. She lives with her husband and two daughters in Ada, Oklahoma.

***Afterimage* Naomi Hughes** Page Street Publishing

In this science fiction thriller, Camryn Kingfisher is the sole survivor of a horrific explosion that levels parts of her city. Desperate to know what happened, she wades through conspiracy theories and threats from government officials to find the truth. The only person she can turn to is Quint, a transparent boy in a lab coat. Unsure whether he is a hallucination or a ghost, Camryn has no other choice but to trust him as they become embroiled in a plot that is bigger than either one realizes. Hughes is the author of *The Shadowed Flame* and *Refraction*. She lives in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

***The Little Red Fort* Brenda Maier** Scholastic Press

In this modern take on the classic *The Little Red Hen*, Maier's main character Ruby is always thinking up new ideas. One day she finds some old boards and decides she wants to build a fort. Each time Ruby asks her three brothers for assistance, they say no. Without any help, will Ruby be able to complete her new project? Will her brothers make amends in order to get back into Ruby's good graces? Will Ruby offer them forgiveness? This is Maier's debut children's picture book. She is employed as a teacher, and when she isn't writing, she enjoys traveling. She lives with her family in Glenpool, Oklahoma.

Legends of the Lost Causes

Brad McLelland and Louis Sylvester Henry Holt and Company

This thrilling adventure involves a band of orphan avengers, a cursed stone, and a horde of zombie outlaws. Keech Blackwood's life is in shambles after Bad Whiskey Nelson burns the Home of Lost Causes to the ground. However, for the first time in his life, Blackwood has a purpose. He must find the powerful Char Stone. He acquires the help of a ragtag group of orphans, and together they will travel through treacherous forests, fight off the risen dead, and discover they share mysterious bonds as they track down the legendary stone. McLelland and Sylvester met at Oklahoma State University. McLelland lives with his family in Ponca City. Sylvester is a professor at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho.

***We Are Grateful Otsaliheliga ᏍᏏᏏᏁᏍᏔᏅ* Traci Sorell** Charlesbridge Publishing

In her debut children's book, Sorell explains that the Cherokee word Otsaliheliga ᏍᏏᏏᏁᏍᏔᏅ is used to express gratitude. She invites readers to journey through the year with a Cherokee family and their tribal nation as they celebrate all things big and small. The book is divided into the four seasons, beginning with the fall when cool breezes, falling leaves, the Great New Moon Ceremony, and remembering those lost on the Trail of Tears are all reasons to offer appreciation. Each season leaps off the page through the vibrant artwork, and Cherokee words are included throughout the book, presented both phonetically and written in the Cherokee syllabary. Sorrell is a member of

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the Cherokee Nation, and she regularly participates in her tribe's celebrations. She lives with her husband and son in Wagoner, Oklahoma.

Skeleton Tree **Kim Ventrella** Scholastic Press

Stanly has the perfect photograph that will ensure his grand prize win for the Young Discoverer's Competition. It's an image of a bone growing in his back yard. Stanly realizes it is a little strange for a bone to be growing in his backyard, but what's even more peculiar is that the bone does not show up in any photos. Adding to the mystery, only children can see it. When Stanly's sister Miren adopts the skeleton as a friend she becomes ill. Suspecting the skeleton is responsible, Stanly attempts to drive the creature away. He quickly begins to question everything he's ever believed about life, love, and the mysterious forces that connect us. Ventrella is a children's librarian and a lover of weird, whimsical stories. She lives in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Non-fiction

Boom Town **Sam Anderson** Crown

Described as a "bone-shaking thrill ride through civic history," Anderson explores the story of Oklahoma City from its founding during the 1889 Land Run to modern day. He explains that Oklahoma City has been torn between two opposing forces: "the wild energy that drives its outsize ambitions and the forces of order that seek sustainable progress." This dynamic is best seen in the 2012-2013 Oklahoma City Thunder, when the team's general manager, Sam Presti, made the controversial decision to trade player James Harden to the Houston Rockets. Anderson also includes some of Oklahoma City's most intriguing individuals such as the Flaming Lips lead singer Wayne Coyne; meteorologist Gary England; civic leader Stanley Draper, and civil rights activist Clara Luper. Anderson is a staff writer for *The New York Times Magazine*. He lives in Beacon, New York.

The Next American City **Mick Cornett** G.P. Putnam's Sons

Former Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett examines the city's recent renaissance. In his book, Cornett explores three transformations: 1) the conversion of Oklahoma City from a "...once regarded forgettable city in flyover country, to a burgeoning urban center that will help lead the United States in years to come"; 2) the rebirth of America's heartland cities, where the next generation of infrastructure is being built and where thousands of Americans from the coastal cities are moving; and 3) the author's own personal change from a light-hearted sports reporter to a dedicated public servant. This is a story about civic engagement, inventive public policy, and smart urban design. Cornett served four terms as Oklahoma City's mayor. He lives with his family in Oklahoma City.

Finding Pax: One Woman's Journey for the Love of Her Wooden Boat

Kaci Cronkhite Adlard Coles

In this heartwarming story, Cronkhite explores the relationship she formed with *Pax*, a beautiful 28-foot wooden Danish spidsgatter (sailboat) she purchased at a time when her life was full and her bucket

list was empty. The author details the seven-year search to unravel the mystery of *Pax's* history, and how her journey brought her into contact with the individuals that *Pax* had touched since she first hit the water in 1936. Cronkhite is a writer whose work radiates a passion for adventures, combining travel, history, and legacy. After sailing around the world between 1995 and 2001, she directed the Wooden Boat Festival in Port Townsend, Washington, where she makes her home.

Bobby BlueJacket: The Tribe, The Joint, The Tulsa Underworld

Michael P. Daley First to Knock

In this biography of Native American Bobby BlueJacket, Daley provides an in-depth account of BlueJacket's life from his 1930 birth in Oklahoma and his education in Indian schools to his tumultuous teenage years and his criminal behavior, including a murder conviction that resulted in his incarceration. Moreover, Daley delves into BlueJacket's personal transformation. While in prison, he became a celebrated prison journalist, and later a political organizer, used tire salesman, prison rodeo emcee, Eastern Shawnee activist, and respected tribal leader. Daley is the author of *Enjoy the Experience: Homemade Records 1958-1992*. He lives in Chicago, Illinois.

Alfalfa Bill: A Life in Politics Robert L. Dorman University of Oklahoma Press

Dorman traces the intriguing life and career of William H. "Alfalfa Bill" Murray from his childhood in Texas to his rise as a colorful political figure, serving in the Oklahoma Legislature, the U.S. Congress, as governor of Oklahoma, and later as a candidate for U.S. President. Dorman describes Murray's political life as a paradox, revealing no label fit him as he espoused the principles of conservatism while at the same time denouncing corporations and concentrated wealth. Dorman also examines the issues of race, class, and gender, and he lays out the argument that Murray was an ambitious, domineering, relentless, and unapologetically racist figure. Dorman serves as Professor of Library Science at Oklahoma City University, and is the author of several books including *Revolt of the Provinces: The Regionalist Movement in America, 1920-1945*. He lives in Edmond, Oklahoma.

Drawing Fire: A Pawnee, Artist, and Thunderbird in World War II

Brummet Echohawk with Mark R. Ellenbarger University Press of Kansas

In this fascinating memoir, the reader is afforded a unique perspective of World War II, told through the artwork and writing of Native American Brummet Echohawk. A member of the Pawnee Nation, Echohawk served in the famed 45th "Thunderbird" Infantry Division during the war. As he perfected his artistic skills on the battlefields of Italy, Echohawk recorded the bravery and leadership skills of Native Americans who served alongside him. His artwork depicts the intensity and horrors of war as he and his fellow soldiers fought in key battles in Sicily, Salerno, and Anzio. A decorated soldier, Echohawk earned many medals, including the Bronze Star, a Combat Infantry Badge, a Purple Heart, and was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. Ellenbarger is the director of the Brummet Echohawk Project, and lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

1889: The Boomer Movement, the Land Run, and Early Oklahoma City

Michael J. Hightower University of Oklahoma Press

In this riveting account of Oklahoma City's founding, Hightower frames the story within the larger history of "Old Oklahoma," beginning in Indian Territory, where displaced tribes and freedmen, wealthy cattlemen, and prospective homesteaders became embroiled in disputes over public land and federal government policies. Going back and forth between Washington, D.C., and the Oklahoma frontier, *1889* exposes the politics of settlement, public land use, and the first stirrings of urban development. Moreover, the author utilizes eyewitness accounts to relay the drama of the Boomer incursions and the Run of '89, as well as the nascent urbanization of the townsite that would become Oklahoma City. Hightower is an independent historian and biographer. He is the author of six books including the two-volume *Banking in Oklahoma* series. He resides in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Prairie Power: Student Activism, Counterculture, and Backlash in Oklahoma 1962–1972

Sarah Eppler Janda University of Oklahoma Press

Drawing on a wide range of sources, Janda explores the period of "counter-culturalism" in the Sooner State between 1962 and 1972, when college students participated in demonstrations calling for civil rights, free speech, an end to "in locos parentis policies," and an end to the Vietnam War. These Oklahoma student protesters differed from East and West coast student activists. Janda explains, Oklahoma and other Midwestern student activists represented a primarily working class background, while their counterparts were members of elite society. Her research focuses primarily on student activism on both the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University campuses and the hostility these students encountered from citizens and local, state, and federal authorities. She also focuses on the role of alternative newspapers and the hippie experience in Oklahoma. Janda is Professor of History at Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Ned Christie: The Creation of an Outlaw and Cherokee Hero

Devon A. Mihesuah University of Oklahoma Press

Ned Christie: the notorious outlaw who murdered U.S. Marshal Dan Maples in 1887, or Cherokee martyr? Mihesuah provides an in-depth look at Christie's life in the context of Cherokee governance and nineteenth-century American political and social conditions. The author delivers a detailed account of the Maples murder in Tahlequah, Indian Territory, the criminals who could have committed the crime, the federal court at Fort Smith, Arkansas, and its subsequent targeting of Christie for the crime. She writes about Christie's ability to evade authorities, and his death at the hands of a posse. Mihesuah also describes the suffering of Christie's family, including his cousin Arch Wolfe who died in the Canton Asylum. Mihesuah is an award-winning author. Her books include *Choctaw Crime and Punishment*, *Recovering our Ancestors Gardens*, and *American Indigenous Women*. She lives in Baldwin City, Kansas.

Ask Us About



Oklahoma Book Festival



Boathouse District Oklahoma City

September 21 2019

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of
Libraries

William Bernhardt

Recipient of the **2019 Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award**

Award-winning author William Bernhardt is one of Oklahoma's most notable and prolific writers, having sold more than 10 million copies of his books. He is the author of 46 works, including the bestselling Ben Kincaid mystery/thriller series, the historical novels *Challengers of the Dust* and *Nemesis*, two books of poetry (*The White Bird* and *The Ocean's Edge*), and a series of books on fiction writing.



Bernhardt has received the Southern Writers Guild's Gold Medal Award, the Royden B. Davis Distinguished Author Award (University of Pennsylvania) and the H. Louise Cobb Distinguished Author Award (Oklahoma State University), which is given "in recognition of an outstanding body of work that has profoundly influenced the way in which we understand ourselves and American society at large."

He has been nominated for the Oklahoma Book Award eighteen times in three different categories, and has won the award in fiction twice for *Perfect Justice* (1995) and *Dark Justice* (2000). *Library Journal* called him "the master of the courtroom drama." *The Vancouver Sun* called him "the American equivalent of P.G. Wodehouse and John Mortimer."

In addition, Bernhardt founded the Red Sneaker Writing Center, hosting an annual writers conference and small-group seminars to mentor aspiring writers. He is now considered one of the most in-demand writing instructors in the nation. More than three dozen of Bernhardt's students have published with major houses. He is also the owner of the Balkan Press, which publishes poetry and fiction as well as the literary journal *Conclave*. He has published many new authors as well as prominent authors like Pulitzer-Prize-winner N. Scott Momaday, and Grammy-Award-winner Janis Ian.

In addition to his novels and poetry, he has written plays, a musical (book and score), humor, children's stories, biography, and puzzles. He has edited two anthologies (*Legal Briefs: Stories by Today's Best Thriller Writers* and *Natural Suspect: A Collaborative Novel of Suspense*) as fundraisers for The Nature Conservancy and the Children's Legal Defense Fund.

OSU named him "Oklahoma's Renaissance Man." In 2017, when Bernhardt delivered the keynote address at the San Francisco Writers Conference, chairman Michael Larsen noted that in addition to penning novels, attorney/author Bernhardt can "write a sonnet, play a sonata, plant a garden, try a lawsuit, teach a class, cook a gourmet meal, beat you at Scrabble, and work the *New York Times* crossword in under five minutes."

The Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award

The Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award is presented each year to recognize a body of work. This award is named for the Norman, Oklahoma, historian who served as the first president of the Oklahoma Center for the Book.



Previous Award Winners and Special Recognition

Children/Young Adult

- 1990 **Helen Roney Sattler** • *Tyrannosaurus Rex and Its Kin*
- 1991 **Stan Hoig** • *A Capital for the Nation*
- 1992 **Jess and Bonnie Speer** • *Hillback to Boggy*
- 1993 **Anna Myers** • *Red Dirt Jessie*
- 1994 **Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith** • *Cherokee Summer*
- 1995 **Russell G. Davis and Brent Ashabranner** • *The Choctaw Code*
- 1996 **Anna Myers** • *Graveyard Girl*
- 1997 **Barbara Snow Gilbert** • *Stone Water*
- 1998 **S. L. Rottman** • *Hero*
- 1999 **Barbara Snow Gilbert** • *Broken Chords*
- 2000 **Harold Keith** • *Brief Garland: Ponytails, Basketball, and Nothing But Net*
- 2001 **Joyce Carol Thomas** • *Hush Songs*
- 2002 **Molly Levite Griffis** • *The Rachel Resistance*
- 2003 **Darleen Bailey Beard** • *The Babbs Switch Story*
- 2004 **Children Una Belle Townsend** • *Grady's in the Silo* * **Young Adult Sharon Darrow** • *The Painters of Lexieville*
- 2005 **Children Joyce Carol Thomas** • *The Gospel Cinderella* * **Young Adult Molly Levite Griffis** • *Simon Says*
- 2006 **Anna Myers** • *Assassin*
- 2007 **Children Tim Tingle** • *Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship and Freedom* * **Young Adult Tim Tharp** • *Knights of the Hill Country*
- 2008 **Children Devin Scillian** • *Pappy's Handkerchief* * **Young Adult P.C. Cast and Kristin Cast** • *Marked: A House of Night Novel*
- 2009 **Anna Myers** • *Spy*
- 2010 **Children Tammi Sauer** • *Chicken Dance* * **Young Adult George Edward Stanley** • *Night Fires*
- 2011 **Children Tammi Sauer** • *Mostly Monsterly* * **Young Adult—M.J. Alexander** • *Portrait of a Generation: The Children of Oklahoma*

- 2012 **Children Glenda Galvan** • *Chikasha Stories, Volume One: Shared Spirit* * **Young Adult Sonia Gensler** • *The Revenant*
- 2013 **Children Frank Keating** • *George: George Washington Our Founding Father* * **Young Adult M. Scott Carter** • *The Immortal Von B.*
- 2014 **Children Tammi Sauer** • *Nugget & Fang* * **Young Adult Tim Tharp** • *MOJO*
- 2015 **Children Greg Rodgers** • *Chukfi Rabbit's Big, Bad Bellyache: A Trickster Tale* * **Young Adult Roy Deering** • *Finders Keepers*
- 2016 **Children Cynthia Liu** • *Bike on, Bear!* * **Young Adult Alton Carter** • *The Boy Who Carried Bricks*
- 2017 **Children Jane McKellips** • *Dust Storm* * **Young Adult Lutricia Clifton** • *Seeking Cassandra*
- 2018 **Children/Young Adult Patricia Loughlin** • *Angie Debo: Daughter of the Prairie*

Design/Illustration/Photography

- 1990 **David E. Hunt** • *The Lithographs of Charles Banks Wilson*
- 1991 **Carol Haralson** • *Cleora's Kitchens*
- 1992 **Joe Williams** • *Woolaroc*
- 1993 **Design Carol Haralson** • *Will Rogers: Courtship and Correspondence* * **Illustration Kandy Radzinski** • *The Twelve Cats of Christmas*
- 1994 **Deloss McGraw** • *Fish Story*
- 1995 **Mike Wimmer** • *All the Places to Love*
- 1996 **Kim Doner** • *Green Snake Ceremony*
- 1997 **Carol Haralson and Harvey Payne** • *Big Bluestem: A Journey into the Tall Grass*
- 1998 **Carol Haralson** • *Visions and Voices: Native American Painting from the Philbrook Museum of Art*
- 1999 **David Fitzgerald** • *Bison: Monarch of the Plains*
- 2000 **Carol Haralson** • *Glory Days of Summer: The History of Baseball in Oklahoma*
- 2001 **Lane Smith** • *The Very Persistent Gappers of Fripp*
- 2002 **Carl Brune** • *Woven Worlds: Basketry from the Clark Field Collection*

- 2003 **Murv Jacob** • *The Great Ball Game of the Birds and Animals*
- 2004 **Design Scott Horton and Jim Argo** • *Family Album: A Centennial Pictorial of the Oklahoma Publishing Company* * **Illustration Kandy Radzinski** • *S is for Sooner*
- 2005 **Carol Haralson** • *A History of the Oklahoma Governor's Mansion*
- 2006 **Design Carol Haralson** • *Home: Native People in the Southwest* * **Illustration Jon Goodell** • *Mother, Mother, I Want Another*
- 2007 **Design Carl Brune** • *OKC: Second Time Around* * **Illustration Jeanne Rorex Bridges** • *Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship and Freedom*
- 2008 **Design Carl Brune, Photography—Scott Raffe** • *Oklahoma: A Portrait of America* * **Illustration Kandy Radzinski** • *What Cats Want for Christmas*
- 2009 **Design Eric H. Anderson and Karen Hayes-Thumann, Photography—Todd Stewart** • *Placing Memory: A Photographic Exploration of Japanese American Internment* * **Illustration Kandy Radzinski** • *What Dogs Want for Christmas*
- 2010 **Design Carol Haralson** • *Willard Stone* * **Illustration Kandy Radzinski** • *Where to Sleep*
- 2011 **Carol Haralson** • *Building One Fire*
- 2012 **Design Eric Anderson** • *The Eugene B. Adkins Collection* * **Illustration** photography by **Sanford Mauldin**, design by **Skip McKinstry** • *Ilimpa'chi' (Let's Eat!): A Chickasaw Cookbook*
- 2013 **Design Carol Haralson, with cover by Tony Roberts** • *The James T. Bialac Native American Art Collection* * **Illustration Mike Wimmer** • *George: George Washington Our Founding Father*
- 2014 **Design Jenny Chan and Lisa Yelon, with photography by Alan Karchmer and Joe C. Aker** • *Devon* * **Illustration Jeannie Barbour** • *Chikasha Stories Volume Three: Shared Wisdom*
- 2015 **Design book design by Julie Rushing and jacket design by Anthony Roberts** • *A Legacy in Arms* * **Illustration Hannah E. Harrison** • *Extraordinary Jane*
- 2016 **Design Laura Hyde** • *Making Friends Was My Business* * **Photography Sanford Mauldin**, book and cover design by **Corey Fetters** • *Ilittibaaimpa: Let's Eat Together! A Chickasaw Cookbook*
- 2017 **Design Douglas Miller** • *4th and Boston: Heart of the Magic Empire* * **Illustration Terry Widener** • *My Name is James Madison Hemings*
- 2018 **Design Laura Hyde** • *The Robson Ranch: Hard Work and Family Ties* * **Illustration Janet Skates** • *Marmie: A Mouse on Main Street*

Fiction

- 1990 **Robert Love Taylor** • *The Lost Sister*
- 1991 **Linda Hogan** • *Mean Spirit*
- 1992 **Robert L. Duncan** • *The Serpent's Mark*
- 1993 **Rilla Askew** • *Strange Business*
- 1994 **Eve Sandstrom** • *Down Home Heifer Heist*
- 1995 **William Bernhardt** • *Perfect Justice*
- 1996 **Billie Letts** • *Where the Heart Is*
- 1997 **Stewart O'Nan** • *The Names of the Dead*
- 1998 **Rilla Askew** • *The Mercy Seat*
- 1999 **Billie Letts** • *The Honk and Holler Opening Soon*
- 2000 **William Bernhardt** • *Dark Justice*
- 2001 **Carolyn Hart** • *Sugarplum Dead*
- 2002 **Douglas Kelley** • *The Captain's Wife*
- 2003 **Diane Glancy** • *The Mask Maker: A Novel*
- 2004 **M.K. Preston** • *Song of the Bones*
- 2005 **Will Thomas** • *Some Danger Involved*
- 2006 **David Kent** • *The Black Jack Conspiracy*
- 2007 **Sheldon Russell** • *Dreams to Dust: A Tale of the Oklahoma Land Rush*
- 2008 **Rilla Askew** • *Harpson*
- 2009 **Carolyn Wall** • *Sweeping Up Glass*
- 2010 **Kirk Bjornsgaard** • *Confessions of a Former Rock Star*
- 2011 **David Gerard** • *God's Acre*
- 2012 **Constance Squires** • *Along the Watchtower*
- 2013 **Linda McDonald** • *Crimes of Redemption*
- 2014 **Jack Shakely** • *Che Guevara's Marijuana and Baseball Savings and Loan*
- 2015 **Will Thomas** • *Fatal Enquiry*
- 2016 **Lou Berney** • *The Long and Faraway Gone*
- 2017 **Luana Ehrlich** • *Three Weeks in Washington*
- 2018 **Sheldon Russell** • *The Bridge Troll Murders*

Non-Fiction

- 1990 **Leonard Leff** • *Hitchcock & Selznick*
- 1991 **Carl Albert** and **Danney Goble** • *Little Giant*

- 1992 **David Morgan, Robert England, and George Humphreys** • *Oklahoma Politics & Policies: Governing the Sooner State*
- 1993 **Henry Bellmon and Pat Bellmon** • *The Life and Times of Henry Bellmon*; and **Daniel Boorstin** • *The Creators*
- 1994 **J. Brent Clark** • *3rd Down and Forever*
- 1995 **Dennis McAuliffe Jr.** • *The Deaths of Sybil Bolton*
- 1996 **William Paul Winchester** • *A Very Small Farm*
- 1997 **Annick Smith** • *Big Bluestem: A Journey Into the Tall Grass*
- 1998 **John Hope Franklin and John Whittington Franklin**, Editors • *My Life and an Era: The Autobiography of Buck Colbert Franklin*
- 1999 **Bob Burke** • *From Oklahoma to Eternity: The Life of Wiley Post and the Winnie Mae*
- 2000 **Michael Wallis** • *The Real Wild West: The 101 Ranch and the Creation of the American West*
- 2001 **David LaVere** • *Contrary Neighbors: Southern Plains and Removed Indians in Indian Territory*
- 2002 **Lydia L. Wyckoff**, Editor • *Woven Worlds: Basketry from the Clark Field Collection*
- 2003 **Michael A. Mares** • *A Desert Calling: Life in a Forbidding Landscape*
- 2004 **Eric R. Pianka and Laurie J. Vitt** • *Lizards: Windows to the Evolution of Diversity*
- 2005 **Ed Cray** • *Ramblin' Man: The Life and Times of Woody Guthrie*
- 2006 **Timothy Egan** • *The Worst Hard Time*
- 2007 **Charles Robert Goins and Danney Goble** • *Historical Atlas of Oklahoma, Fourth Edition*
- 2008 **Nancy Isenberg** • *Fallen Founder: The Life of Aaron Burr*
- 2009 **Linda Peavy and Ursula Smith** • *Full Court Quest: The Girls from Shaw Indian School, Basketball Champions of the World*
- 2010 **Randy Ramer, Carole Klein, Kimberly Roblin, Eric Singleton, Anne Morand, Gary Moore, and April Miller** • *Thomas Gilcrease*
- 2011 **S. C. Gwynne** • *Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History*
- 2012 **Daniel Blake Smith** • *An American Betrayal: Cherokee Patriots and the Trail of Tears*
- 2013 **W.K. Stratton** • *Floyd Patterson: The Fighting Life of Boxing's Invisible Champion*

- 2014 **Mary Jane Warde** • *When the Wolf Came: The Civil War and the Indian Territory*
- 2015 **Cheryl Elizabeth Brown Wattlely** • *A Step Toward Brown v. Board of Education: Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher and Her Fight to End Segregation*
- 2016 **Holly Bailey** • *The Mercy of the Sky*
- 2017 **Rusty Williams** • *The Red River Bridge War: A Texas-Oklahoma Border Battle*
- 2018 **David Grann** • *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*

Poetry

- 1990 **William Kistler** • *The Elizabeth Sequence*
- 1992 **Carol Hamilton** • *Once the Dust*
- 1993 **Jim Barnes** • *The Sawdust War*
- 1994 **Carter Revard** • *An Eagle Nation*
- 1995 **Joy Harjo** • *The Woman Who Fell from the Sky*
- 1996 **Francine Ringold** • *The Trouble with Voices*
- 1997 **Renata Treitel** • translation of Rosita Copioli's *The Blazing Lights of the Sun*
- 1998 **Betty Shipley** • *Somebody Say Amen*
- 1999 **Mark Cox** • *Thirty-Seven Years from the Stone*
- 2000 **N. Scott Momaday** • *In the Bear's House*
- 2001 **Carolyn Wright** • *Seasons of Mangoes and Brainfire*
- 2002 **Ivy Dempsey** • *The Scent of Water: New and Selected Poems*
- 2003 **Joy Harjo** • *How We Became Human: New and Selected Poems*
- 2004 **Laura Apol** • *Crossing the Ladder of Sun*
- 2005 **Francine Ringold** • *Still Dancing*
- 2006 **Leanne Howe** • *Evidence of Red*
- 2007 **Carl Sennhenn** • *Travels Through Enchanted Woods*
- 2008 **Sandra Soli** • *What Trees Know*
- 2009 **Nathan Brown** • *Two Tables Over*
- 2010 **Jeanetta Calhoun Mish** • *Work is Love Made Visible: Poetry and Family Photographs*
- 2011 **Benjamin Myers** • *Elegy for Trains*
- 2012 **Joe Dale Tate Nevaquaya** • *Leaving Holes & Selected New Writings*
- 2013 **Carl Sennhenn** • *Nocturnes and Sometimes, Even I*
- 2014 **Yvonne Carpenter, Nancy Goodwin, Catherine McCraw, Clynell Reinschmiedt, and Carol Waters** • *Red Dirt Roads*
- 2015 **Jessica Isaacs** • *Deep August*
- 2016 **Loren Graham** • *Places I Was Dreaming*

- 2017 **Sly Alley** • *Strong Medicine*
 2018 **Ron Wallace** • *Renegade (and Other Poems)*

Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award

- 1990 **Daniel Boorstin**—Librarian of Congress Emeritus—Tulsa
 1991 **Tony Hillerman**—award winning mystery writer—native of Sacred Heart
 1992 **Savoie Lottinville**—Director of the University of Oklahoma Press for 30 years
 1993 **Harold Keith**—Newbery Award winning children's author—Norman
 1994 **N. Scott Momaday**—Pulitzer Prize winning Kiowa author—native of Lawton
 1995 **R.A. Lafferty**—Hugo Award winning author—Tulsa
 1996 **John Hope Franklin**—historian—native of Rentiesville
 1997 **S.E. Hinton**—author of young adult novels—Tulsa
 1998 **Jack Bickham**—novelist, teacher, and journalist—Norman
 1999 **Michael Wallis**—historian and biographer—Tulsa
 2000 **Bill Wallace**—writer of novels for young people—Chickasha
 2001 **Joyce Carol Thomas**—children and adult fiction author, and playwright—native of Ponca City
 2002 **World Literature Today**—The University of Oklahoma, Norman
 2003 **Joy Harjo**—poet and member of the Muscogee Nation—native of Tulsa
 2004 **Carolyn Hart**—award winning mystery writer—Oklahoma City
 2005 **C.J. Cherryh**—Hugo Award winning author—Oklahoma City
 2006 **Bob Burke**—Oklahoma historian—Oklahoma City
 2007 **Clifton Taulbert**—award-winning author—Tulsa
 2008 **David Dary**—award-winning author—Norman
 2009 **Robert J. Conley**—Cherokee author—native of Cushing
 2010 **David G. Fitzgerald**—award-winning photographer—Oklahoma City
 2011 **Rilla Askew**—novelist—native of Sans Bois Mountains

- 2012 **Anna Myers**—author of young adult novels—Chandler
 2013 **Billie Letts**—novelist—Tulsa
 2014 **Alvin O. Turner**—educator, historian, author, and poet—Norman
 2015 **Rennard Strickland**—author, historian, and legal scholar—Norman
 2016 **Diane Glancy**—poet, author, and playwright—Tulsa
 2017 **Dr. George Henderson**—educator and author—Norman
 2018 **Tim Tingle**—author, storyteller, and performer—member Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Ralph Ellison Award

- 1995 **Ralph Ellison**—National Book Award winner—Oklahoma City
 1997 **Angie Debo**—“First Lady of Oklahoma History”—Marshall
 1999 **Melvin Tolson**—poet, journalist, and dramatist—Langston
 2000 **Jim Thompson**—novelist and screenwriter—Anadarko
 2002 **John Berryman**—poet, biographer, and editor—McAlester
 2004 **Lynn Riggs**—playwright and screenwriter—Claremore
 2005 **Woody Guthrie**—author, illustrator, and songwriter—Okemah
 2006 **John Joseph Mathews**—Osage novelist and historian—Pawhuska
 2007 **Muriel Wright**—acclaimed Oklahoma historian—Oklahoma City
 2008 **Danney Glenn Goble**—acclaimed Oklahoma historian—Tulsa
 2010 **Stan Hoig**—author, journalist, and historian—Edmond
 2013 **Alexander Lawrence Posey**, poet, journalist, and essayist—Eufaula
 2016 **Dr. H. Wayne Morgan**, author and historian—Norman
 2017 **Ralph Marsh**, newspaperman, award-winning magazine writer, and author—Okemah

Glenda Carlile Distinguished Service Award

- 1999 **Daniel Boorstin**—Librarian of Congress Emeritus * **John Y. Cole**—Director, Center of the Book in the Library of Congress since 1977 * **Robert L. Clark**—Director, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, 1976–2000 * **Lee Brawner**—Director of the Metropolitan Library System, 1972–1999
- 2000 **Ken Jackson**—Tulsa World editor and columnist, Oklahoma Center for the Book Board Member, 1988–2000
- 2001 **Julie Hovis** and **Kathy Kinasewitz**—owners of Best of Books, booksellers for the Oklahoma Book Awards
- 2002 **Dan Blanchard**—a founding member of the Oklahoma Center for the Book and Master of Ceremonies for the book award ceremony for eleven years
- 2005 **Fran Ringold**—Oklahoma poet laureate and the founder and editor for over forty years of the international literary journal *Nimrod*
- 2006 **Oklahoma Today**—for fifty years of publication
- 2007 **Bill Young**—Public Information Manager, Oklahoma Department of Libraries
- 2008 **Bob Burke**—author, and supporter of the Oklahoma Center for the Book * **B.J. Williams**—producer and host of *Read About It*, and Past President of the Oklahoma Center for the Book
- 2009 **Glenda Carlile**—20 years of service to the Center as volunteer, board member, president, and executive director
- 2010 **Teresa Miller**—founder of the Oklahoma Center for Poets and Writers, and producer and host of *Writing Out Loud*.
- 2011 **Kitty Pittman**—Friends of the Center board member and creator of Oklahoma Authors database
- 2012 **FOLIO/Oklahoma Literary Landmarks**—honoring Oklahoma's writers and poets through historic landmark designations
- 2013 **Fred Marvel**, photographer for the Oklahoma Book Awards * **Dorothy Alexander**, owner Village Books Press, promoting Oklahoma poets
- 2014 **Lynn McIntosh**, Executive Director of Chickasaw Regional (Public) Library System and Past

President of the Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book

- 2015 **Laurie Williams**, attorney, and supporter of the Oklahoma Center for the Book
- 2016 **Gini Moore Campbell**, Past President and supporter of the Oklahoma Center for the Book
- 2017 **Anne Masters**, past Director of Pioneer Library System and supporter of the Oklahoma Center for the Book
- 2018 **Ken Hada**, founder and director of Scissortail Creative Writing Festival

Directors Awards

Presented by the Awards Committee for works of special merit

- 2004 **Doris Eaton Travis** • *The Days We Danced: The Story of My Theatrical Family*
- 2005 **B. Byron Price** • *Fine Art of the West* * **Deborah Duvall** and **Murv Jacob** • The Series of Grandmother Stories
- 2006 **Patricia Loughlin** • *Hidden Treasures of the American West*
- 2011 Editors **Dianna Everett** • **Jon May**, **Larry O'Dell**, and **Linda Wilson** • *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*
- 2018 **Gaye Sanders** • *The Survivor Tree*

Past Presidents

- Arrell Gibson**, namesake of the Center's lifetime achievement award, Norman 1986–1988
- Dan Blanchard**, Oklahoma City 1988–1990
- Judy Moody**, Tulsa 1990–1992
- David Clark**, Norman 1992–1993
- Glenda Carlile**, Oklahoma City 1994–1995
- Laurie Sundborg**, Tulsa 1996–1997
- Liz Codding**, Oklahoma City 1998–2000
- B.J. Williams**, Oklahoma City 2001–2004
- M.J. VanDeventer**, Oklahoma City 2005–2007
- Lynn McIntosh**, Ardmore 2008–2010
- Gini Moore Campbell**, Okla. City 2011–2015

Past Executive Directors

- Jan Blakely** 1986–1988
- Aarone Corwin** 1988–1990
- Ann Hamilton** 1991–1996
- Glenda Carlile** 1996–2009



Center for the Book

Project Highlights

Double R Author Tour—In September, the Double R Tour featuring Christopher Nick, illustrator of *Dust Storm*, winner of the 2017 Oklahoma Book Award for children, and Lutricia Clifton, whose book *Seeking Cassandra* won the 2017 Oklahoma Book Award for young adults, visited five communities each throughout the state to share the writing process with students and individuals at local libraries. The Double R tour resulted from a \$40,000 grant from The Reading Trust, which placed books of Oklahoma Book Award winners or finalists in the children/young adult categories in public libraries. Communities on the 2018 Double R tour included Apache, Bristow, Capitol Hill, Cleveland, Hennessey, Marlow, Okeene, Pawhuska, Wagoner, and Woodward. Since its inception four years ago, authors and illustrators have spoken to more than 16,000 individuals at public schools and local libraries. The tour was sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the Oklahoma Center for the Book, Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book, Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO), and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Best of Books in Edmond, Oklahoma, served as the official bookseller for the tour.



Lutricia Clifton



Christopher Nick

Letters About Literature is a contest co-sponsored with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Each student who enters writes a letter to an author, living or dead, explaining how a book has influenced the student's life. First-place winners received a commemorative plaque and a cash prize. Once again, the statewide competition was co-sponsored by Attorney Laurie Williams. As a result of her generosity, the first-place winners' libraries each received a \$1,000 grant!

National Book Festival—The Oklahoma Center for the Book hosted a booth in the Pavilion of States at the 2018 National Book Festival held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. Oklahoma Center for the Book Executive Director Connie Armstrong along with Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book President Jeanne Devlin, and Treasurer Gini Moore Campbell hosted the Oklahoma Booth in the Pavillion of States, where they distributed copies of *The Survivor Tree* and other children/young adult titles donated by Oklahoma Hall of Fame Publishing and The RoadRunner Press. Additional Oklahoma related information and items were distributed to attendees at the booth. Gaye Saunders, author of *The Survivor Tree*, was present to sign books and meet with participants.

Oklahoma Author Database—The Center, its Friends group, and the Department of Libraries continued to add authors to this online resource for libraries, schools, and readers. Visit www.digitalprairie.org.

ok.gov on the web to see this work-in-progress. If you are a published author and would like more information, or to be listed on the database, please contact Connie Armstrong at 405/522-3383 or email connie.armstrong@libraries.ok.gov.

Oklahoma Book Festival— On October 20, 2018, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and the Oklahoma Center for the Book launched the inaugural Oklahoma Book Festival at the Boathouse District in Oklahoma City. According to Factor 110, the event management group, approximately 3,000 people from across Oklahoma and some from surrounding states came to hear some of Oklahoma's and the nation's finest literary talent. Fifty-seven authors, illustrators, and poets including *New York Times* Bestselling authors David Grann, Meg Gardiner, and Lou Berney shared their experiences regarding the writing process and later signed books for attendees. The event also featured JEDI OKC, the 501st Legion, famed illustrator Jerry Bennet, entertainers and food trucks. The 2019 Oklahoma Book Festival will take place on September 21, 2019, at the Boathouse District in Oklahoma City. For more information, please contact Connie Armstrong at 405/522-3383 or connie.armstrong@libraries.ok.gov; or Vicki Mohr at 405/522-3293 or vicki.mohr@libraries.ok.gov.

Contratulations to the 2019 Finalists!



**SOUTHERN
OKLAHOMA**
Library System

Public Library Services for Carter, Atoka, Johnston, Love and Murray Counties

(Previously known as the Chickasaw Regional Library System)



Center for the Book wishes to thank

Our Judges

Pat Brown

Jim Burke

Heather Cook

Julie Collins

Mark Cotner

Brian Dahlvang

Christine Detlaff

Julie Dill

Doris Dixon

Bettie Estes-Rickner

Kathryn Fanning

Dee Fisher

William Gorden

Jessica Isaacs

Patricia Loughlin

Troy Milligan

Dee Richardson

Kelley Riha

Richard Rouillard

David Smith

Kristin Sorocco

William R. Struby

Anna Todd

Theresa Walther

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of the following organizations and individuals

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Center for the Book in the Library of Congress

Oklahoma Department of Libraries

Pioneer Library System

The RoadRunner Press

Southern Oklahoma Library System

University of Oklahoma Press

Laurie Williams

Special Thanks

Ceremony Committee

Connie Armstrong, Steven Baker, Gini Campbell, Jeanne Devlin, and Kelley Riha

Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Public Information Office

Connie Armstrong, Bill Struby, Fara Taylor, and Bill Young

Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book

The Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book is a cultural and educational corporation to advance and promote the role of the book and reading in Oklahoma. The Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book supports and further enhances the programs and projects of the Oklahoma Center for the Book in the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. A volunteer board of directors from across the state governs the Friends.

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Vice-President **Kelley Riha** Norman
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Judy Neale—Lawton
Karen Neurohr—Stillwater
Judy Randle—Tulsa
Bettie Estes-Rickner—Yukon
Richard Rouillard—Oklahoma City
Kristen Sorocco—Oklahoma City
Leah Taylor—Oklahoma City
William R. Young—Oklahoma City



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