The background is a complex collage of various textures and colors, including greens, reds, blues, and blacks, with some areas showing what looks like a woven or mesh-like pattern. A large, semi-transparent red rectangle is centered over the collage, containing the text.

Oklahoma
Book Awards

20
23

Oklahoma Book Awards

a Celebration of Oklahoma Books and Authors

**20
23**

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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BOOK AWARDS

2023 Oklahoma Book Awards

Saturday, April 22, 2023 Embassy Suites by Hilton

Welcome

Connie Armstrong

Director, Oklahoma Center for the Book

Greetings from the State Library

Natalie Currie

Director, Oklahoma Department of Libraries

Master of Ceremonies

Steven Baker

President, Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book

Poetry Award Presentation

Gini Campbell

Board Member, Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book

Non-fiction Award Presentation

Rudy Ellis

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

Fiction Award Presentation

Richard Rouillard

Board Member, Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book

Children/Young Adult Presentation

Kelley Riha

Board Member, Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book

Lynn McIntosh Award for Excellence Presentation

Connie Armstrong

Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation
Honoring **Sheldon Russell**

Jeanne Devlin

Board Member, Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book

Announcements

Steven Baker

Tonight's winners: please meet following the awards program for a group photo.

The book sale and signing continues after dinner.
Please enjoy visiting with the book award medalists and finalists.

OKLAHOMA

*"A man only
learns in two ways,
one by reading, and
the other by association
with smarter people."*

Will Rogers

BOOK AWARD

Book Award Finalists

Poetry

The Collected Poems of Josie Craig Berry Edited by **Jeanetta Calhoun Mish**

Mongrel Empire Press

The writings of Josie Craig Berry, a well-known Oklahoma City school teacher, are without a doubt a significant literary recovery, so says the collection editor, Jeanetta Calhoun Mish, in the introduction. With fifteen years of research into twentieth century Oklahoma poetry, Mish's statement is anything but an exaggeration. The book provides poem after poem showcasing the mastery of language and biting sarcasm Berry infused within her poems. A reoccurring theme in Berry's work is her honest and brutal depiction of life as an African American woman in an era when phrases such as civil rights were decades from common use. Other topics range from a one-sided conversation with Robert Frost to the deep sorrow of losing a child. Her poems offer a frank depiction of what the world looked like through multiple era-defining events such as World War I and II and the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy. Despite the harrowing times she lived through, her words offer hope and love in the prayerful poems, "The Winds of Chance," and "Prayer for 1975." Thanks to the recovery work of Mish, Berry's work as a poet and an educator lives on through this collection. Mish lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Who Do You Think You Are? **Mary B. Gray** Turning Plow Press

The title of Mary B. Gray's poetry, "Who Do You Think You Are?" could be read as an accusatory demand for self-identity. Upon reading the collection, the title is in fact an internal question for self-reflection. Each poem tells a story about an African American from history whose story is not widely known. The poems about the life of Bass Reeves, an escaped slave who became the first African American U.S. deputy marshal in 1875, is recounted by himself, his wife Nellie, and his convicted son Benjamin, who Bass brought to justice himself. Gray's retelling of these lives in verse form is nothing short of magical. She weaves an intricate tapestry of communal identity for African Americans while also allowing the reader an opportunity to ask, "Who have I been told I am?" Poetry may not often be categorized as a thriller or page-turner, but Gray's book is undoubtedly just that as you travel across centuries witnessing these walks of life often not covered in history class. Gray's final lines offer an opportunity for the reader to define for themselves who they would like to be. Gray lives in Oklahoma City.

The Family Book of Martyrs **Benjamin Myers** Lamar University Literary Press

Myers' latest collection of poems *The Family Book of Martyrs* is the intersection between his past family experiences and Oklahoma history. A former Poet Laureate of Oklahoma, Myers is

an expert at linking the past to the present. The subject matter ranges from the commonplace to the divine, often in the same poem. In “What Peter Looked Like Stepping on Water,” Myers muses on how St. Peter may have looked attempting to walk on water in the gospels, likening him to a “drunk buddy trying to ice fish.” It is meant as humor, yet immediately paints a humanist depiction of a saintly figure; that is what these poems do. His work is accessible in a way poetry is not always described. Through the themes of familial ties, legacy, and remembrance, the poet’s words connect on a human level, whether you are a sinner or martyr. Myers’ book *Elegy for Trains* won the 2011 Oklahoma Book Award for poetry. He lives in Chandler, Oklahoma.

***Level Land: Poems For and About the I35 Corridor* Crag Hill and Todd Fuller**

Lamar University Literary Press

The collection of poems found in *Level Land*, is about much more than just I-35 or the area surrounding it. The co-editors, Crag Hill and Todd Fuller, expand our understanding of the borders and history of this Pan-American highway. Indigenous peoples have been traversing the swath of land prior to any European presence, which adds to the folklore found in each poem. Translated poems from multiple languages, such as English, Spanish, and indigenous languages like Kiowa, are included in the collection, all inspired by the cultural and geographic landscape of this unique region of America. The Midwest is often geographically described as a “flyover,” section of the country, but *Level Land* invites everyone to get to know the red dirt state as well as the people who inhabit it. Through highlighting immigration stories, long-distance relationships, 5 o’clock traffic, and road trips, *Level Land* stitches together a narrative about the lived human experience of the I-35 corridor. Both Hill and Fuller live in Norman, Oklahoma.

***Cream Lines: Words Risen to Poetry* Karen Kay Knauss** Peach Tree Press

Knauss and her cream-centric poems are a feast for the senses. A few short lines in “It’s Never Just Cream,” can summon a vision of the Western setting sun, the smell of sweet alfalfa hay, and the sound of milk sloshing in a pail. Knauss uses painstaking accuracy in selecting her words to illuminate a natural world. Cream is worthy of such devoted study found in Knauss’ poems. It rises to the top of milk naturally, albeit not without a course of action. Rising and establishing a cream line is similar to one striving to reach a certain level of accomplishment in life—it requires humility, enduring patience and driven determination. Formal and free verse poetry make up the pages of *Cream Lines*, encompassing a variety of lighthearted and serious topics. It is beautifully crafted and as enjoyable to read as the first taste of coffee is after you stir in the cream. Knauss lives in Blanchard, Oklahoma.

Non-fiction

Raven and the Hummingbird: A Healing Path to Recovery from Multiple Personality Disorder **Renate F. Caldwell** M & M Publishing

Caldwell introduces Joan, a married woman of substance and faith. Yet, at the age of thirty-two her mind broke open and her life fell apart. Diagnosed with Multiple Personality Disorder, Joan reveals she suffered unrelenting sexual abuse throughout her childhood. Her only defense was to flee into a dissociative state, where her mind created fifty-two alternate personalities to protect her from the unimaginable. Caldwell takes the reader on a journey into the therapy room with Joan to witness each triumph and setback. Joan's inspiring story exemplifies the capacity of the human heart to rise above the incomprehensible and usher in a singular authentic life. Caldwell has more than twenty years as a licensed professional counselor. She is a member of the International Society for the Study of Human Trauma. She resides in Norman, Oklahoma.

Children of White Thunder: Legacy of a Cheyenne Family 1830–2020

Dee Cordry Harry D. Cordry Jr. Publisher

Cordry replaces the broad brush of traditional American Indian tribal histories written through the lens of federal officials and white civilians with the revealing details of real Cheyenne people, making real decisions grounded on ancient traditions passed down from one generation to the next. Spanning almost two centuries, this story is written through the lens of one family, the descendants of White Thunder, a Cheyenne holy man who was a keeper of the Sacred Arrows. The interconnected stories of his descendants, reaching all the way into our times through the life of Harvey Pratt, provide us a more personal panorama of one tribe's history from conflict and confinement to survival and cultural preservation. Cordry is a retired Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation law enforcement special agent. He lives in Piedmont, Oklahoma.

The Land and the Days: A Memoir of Family, Friendship, and Grief

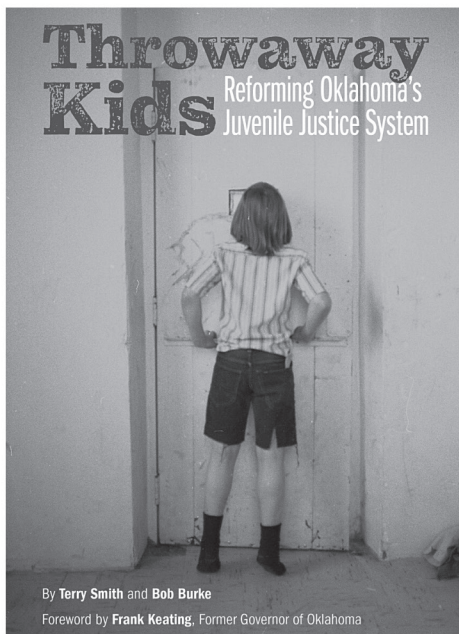
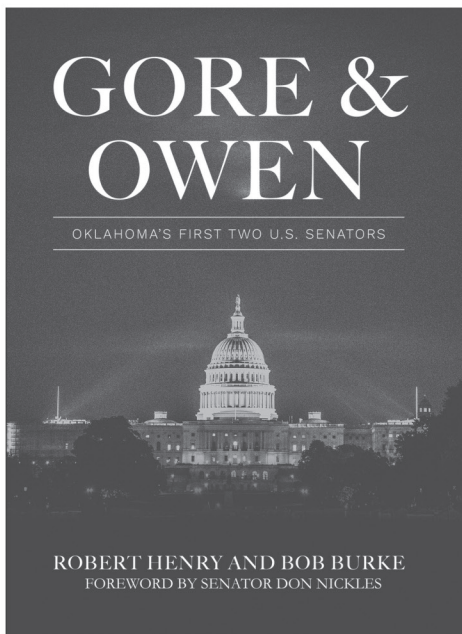
Tracy Daugherty University of Oklahoma Press

Daugherty provides dual memoirs in this thought-provoking account of family life, death, grief, creativity, and the meaning of memory. In the first memoir "Cotton County," he describes the forces that shape us: the "rituals of our regions," and the family and friends who animate our lives and memories. Combining reminiscence, history, and meditation, Daugherty retraces his childhood in Texas and Oklahoma, where he first encountered the realities of politics, race, and class. In the second memoir "Unearthly Archives," he expands on the first memoir by providing a meditation on the meaning of grief. He examines his lifelong store of literary readings, as well as the music he loves, to discover the true value of a life dedicated to art. Daugherty is Distinguished Professor of English and Creative Writing, Emeritus, at Oregon State University. He lives in Corvallis, Oregon.



CONGRATULATIONS

to Bob Burke, Judge Robert Henry & Terry Smith



Finalists in the Non-fiction Category



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We Refuse to Forget: A True Story of Black Creeks, American Identity, and Power

Caleb Gayle Penguin Random House

Gayle relates the extraordinary story of the Creek Nation, a Native tribe that two centuries ago both owned slaves and accepted Black people as full citizens. As a result of the leadership of Cow Tom, a Black Creek citizen who rose to become chief, the U.S. government recognized Creek citizenship in 1866 for its Black members. Yet, in the 1970s tribal leaders revoked the citizenship of Black Creeks, even those who traced their history back to Cow Tom himself. Gayle examines why this happened, and how the U.S. government was involved. He also looks at Cow Tom's descendants and other Black Creeks' efforts to regain their citizenship. An award-winning journalist, Gayle is a professor at Northeastern University, and serves as a fellow at New America, PEN America, Harvard's Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Studies, and is a visiting scholar at New York University. He lives in Watertown, Massachusetts.

A Place to Stand Samuel Hall Reify Press

In this sequel to his book *Daughters of the Cimarron*, Hall provides an engrossing memoir of his ancestor Claire and her family. Ruin, tragedy, or calamity will afflict nearly every family at some point. All three tribulations descend on Claire's family in *A Place to Stand*. Widowed, she is left to raise three small boys on a struggling farm during the Dust Bowl. If Claire quits, there would be no one to carry on, and she would be abandoning her sons' birthright. Claire and her sons endure nature's extremes, freeloading relatives, a local land grabber, crop failures, opportunists, thieves, and would-be-suitors. Hall's account paints his family enduring as they deal with issues of wholeness, truth, family bonds, and divine purpose. Hall grew up in the Oklahoma Panhandle. He and his wife now reside near Salem, Oregon.

Gore & Owen: Oklahoma's First Two U.S. Senators

Robert Henry and **Bob Burke** Oklahoma Hall of Fame Publishing

Henry and Burke examine the lives and political careers of Thomas P. Gore and Robert L. Owen, Oklahoma's first U.S. Senators. Even though Gore and Owen were often far apart on issues, both were instrumental in establishing a power base to be built upon by later congressmen and senators to assure that the Sooner State's voice in the federal government was strong. Henry's distinguished career includes serving in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, as Oklahoma's Attorney General, Dean of the Oklahoma City University School of Law, federal judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, serving for a time as chief judge, and as president of Oklahoma City University. He lives in Oklahoma City. Burke is an attorney and has written more historical non-fiction books than anyone in history. He and his wife, Chimene, live in Oklahoma City.

Path Lit By Lightning: The Life of Jim Thorpe David Maraniss Simon & Schuster

Maraniss explores the life and myth of Jim Thorpe, who was perhaps the greatest athlete the world has ever known. Although Thorpe excelled in Olympic and professional sports, his life

was a struggle against daunting odds. As a member of the Sac and Fox Nation, he encountered duplicitous authorities who turned away from him including his Carlisle Indian Industrial School coach Pop Warner and U.S. Olympic official James E. Sullivan. Thorpe also dealt with Carlisle's assimilation policy, and later had his Olympic medals unfairly rescinded. His later life also brought challenges including alcohol, broken marriages, and financial woes. Despite his problems, Thorpe did not succumb. The man survived and so did the myth. Maraniss is an associate editor at *The Washington Post*. Among his bestselling books are biographies on Bill Clinton, Barack Obama, Roberto Clemente, and Vince Lombardi.

Throwaway Kids: Reforming Oklahoma's Juvenile Justice System

Terry Smith and **Bob Burke** Oklahoma Hall of Fame Publishing

In this account of the Terry D. lawsuit, named for one of eight minor plaintiffs whose case resulted in the closure of Oklahoma juvenile institutions and brought new procedures for handling deprived and delinquent children in the state, authors Smith and Burke follow the case from its filing in federal court by Steven A. Novick, an Oklahoma City Legal Aid attorney, to its conclusion twenty years later. The authors reveal this lawsuit is perhaps the most significant litigation in the history of Oklahoma rectifying the past sins of throwing away kids and locking them in tiny cells with only a blanket, initiating decades of reform and vast improvement. Smith's entire career has been focused on helping Oklahoma youth and their families, working for both the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and the Office of Juvenile Affairs. He and his wife, Lisa, live in Oklahoma City. Burke, an attorney and award-winning author, is a member of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame, and the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame.

I Can See for Miles: Overcoming the Past and Running to My Future

Hollie Stuart Marathon Publishing Company

In this uplifting story of endurance, determination, and transformation, Stuart recounts her life story from a care-free teenager trying to find her identity through decades of mental illness, and finally healing. A chain of traumatic events set her off on a path of depression and self-blame. Attempting to cope, she turned to self-achievement to soothe her suffering and find her worth. For twenty-eight years, she found herself on a never-ending roller-coaster of happiness and depression. It is when Stuart took fate into her own hands, that she liberated herself from the roles and outlooks expected of women in her conservative community. She educated herself on depression, trauma, and PTSD, determined to heal from the pain. Stuart explains how she let go of the past and really lives, embracing a life of adventure. Stuart lives in Edmond, Oklahoma.

Design/Illustration/Photography

Memory Keepers: Life Stories of Choctaw People photography by **Judy Allen** and **Deidre Elrod**, designed by **Kevin Wingfield** Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

This colorful book is filled with large photographic portraits and memorabilia of older Choctaw tribal members of various backgrounds. The photographs and first-person stories offer an overview of Choctaw Nation history over the past 100 years. The cover art is by award-winning Choctaw artist Karen Clarkson, and her personal account is among the more than sixty life stories in the book. Allen is the History Projects Officer at Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma; Elrod is Multimedia Photographer at Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma; and Wingfield is Art Director at Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Capitol City: History of Tishomingo designed by **Gentry Chapman, Wiley Barnes**, and **Skip McKinstry** Chickasaw Press

Forgoing a dust jacket, the book cover has a fabric half binding, a vintage sepia-toned photograph of the Chickasaw National Capitol Building, and an embossed display typeface. On the spine, the title and author's name appear to be embroidered onto the green fabric. On the inside, the chapter headings use a font that simulates hand tooling and are elegantly underscored with a thin, capped rule. The main text is consistently set in two columns with very readable 3-inch measures. Dark green text boxes stand out on the pages highlighting specific individuals and incidents that bleed off the fore edge. Photographs are handled with care throughout and are clean, sharp, and appropriately sized. These elements work together to create a refined tone and encourage the reader to explore the history of Tishomingo. McKinstry won the 2012 Oklahoma Book Award in design for the book *Ilimpa'chi' (Let's Eat!): A Chickasaw Cookbook*. Barnes's non-fiction children's book *C is for Chickasaw*, was a 2017 Oklahoma Book Award finalist. Chapman works for the Chickasaw Nation Communications Division.

Poopsie Gets Lost illustrated by **Hannah E. Harrison** Penguin Random House

Hannah Harrison, three-time winner of the Illustration award, has created another beautiful book filled with sweet and playful paintings portraying the adventures of Poopsie the cat. The arresting cover sets the tone with the white-haired, blue-eyed cat with a pink bow peering out of a jungle-like garden. The watercolor-on-vellum illustrations and a mix of spot and full-bleed art are finely detailed. Poopsie's facial expressions match the demands of this comic tale. The color is vivid and varied yet remains balanced and harmonious with the dominant hue of the story's location—green plants and lawn.

Atherton: A Legacy of Family Values designed by **Laura Hyde** Müllerhaus Publishing

The cover is elaborate with a tactile faux leather, a debossed photograph on soft-touch matte laminate, and embossed and copper foiled text elements. This oversized book is packed with carefully arranged and collaged images of people and memorabilia befitting a family history

spanning generations and decades of business. There are innumerable thoughtful and creative details that are used consistently to unify the story. Just one example, the endpapers and thin rules used throughout the book are colored the same red as the buildings and logo of Pizza Hut, the author's foremost business. Chapter title pages use abundant white space and screened images over light brown pages resembling aged parchment. Hyde earned the Oklahoma Book Award for design in 2016 for *Making Friends Was My Business* and 2018 for *The Robson Ranch: Hard Work and Family Ties*.

The Smallest Hint: Photographs and Poems

photography by **David Jennings** Yorkshire Publishing

David Jennings, a practicing physician from Broken Arrow, has created a handsome book of original photographs and poems. The book features large—nearly full-page—photographs opposite poems set in 14-point type, center aligned, and surrounded by generous white space. The general focus of both the photographs and the poems is the natural world, with rare signs of human presence—an empty tree swing, an overgrown road, a hiker's legs. Color and black and white photographs of wintry landscapes, derelict structures, and discarded tools suggest the passage of time. Poems complement and enhance the photographs with their narrative, whether a description of the image or an imagined story evoked by the picture. For example, the photograph of a weathered, nineteenth century tombstone for a nine-year-old child is accompanied by a poem that seems to directly address the child.

Save it Forward Suppers illustrated by **Jeannine Bulleigh** HarperCollins

There is an abundance of charm in this book of time saving and economical family recipes. Jeannine Bulleigh's lovely watercolor paintings of food enrich nearly every page. Set on warm, almond-colored paper, these illustrations rest both alongside and amid recipe pages. Across from the chapter heading pages, full-page "Save-It-Forward" diagrams indicate how that week's dishes might lead to the next meal. Within chapters, the recipe pages are consistently composed of the same components organized in two columns. Headers and kickers for the pages are set in informal display type colored with orange and blue. For each dish, the ingredients list is a short column of semi-bold, sans serif. The second column of serif type typically features an italicized paragraph or two of the author's personal observations. The anecdotes are followed by cooking instructions, and a note or two. On many pages, sidebars are included, bordered by thin, colored rules and a small watercolor ornament related to the subject. Overall, the designers have created a friendly, inviting mood appropriate to a book aiming to "make your family deliriously happy." Bulleigh lives in Bartlesville.

Fiction

Prize for the Fire Rilla Askew University of Oklahoma Press

Amid England's religious turmoil, fifteen-year-old Anne Askew is forced to take her dead sister's place in an arranged marriage. She is determined to free herself from her abusive husband, harsh in-laws, and the cruel strictures of her married life. But this is Henry VIII's England, where religion and politics are dangerously entangled. Anne's fierce independence, Reformist faith, command of plainspoken scripture, and connections to Queen Katheryn Parr's court, cannot long escape official notice, or censure. Yet, she defied the conventions of her time, braved torture and martyrdom for her convictions. Rilla Askew won the Oklahoma Book Award in fiction for *Strange Business* (1993); *The Mercy Seat* (1998); and *Harpson* (2008). She received the Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oklahoma Center for the Book in 2011. Askew and her husband, Paul Austin, reside in Norman, Oklahoma.

Red Rain Lara Bernhardt Admission Press

Olivia Montag is a professor who doesn't have all the answers. The devastating loss of a child ended her marriage, and she's been overlooked for a job promotion one time too many. She leaves it all behind and volunteers to teach English to school children in India. Ten thousand miles away, she connects with fellow volunteers and finds purpose in teaching. Until one by one the girls in her classes stop showing up. Mukesh, an Indian man with a heart for invention, may be the only one who can help her students. This is Olivia's chance to impact real change. She finds there is strength in asking for help and embracing a painful past to clear the way for a brighter future. Bernhardt is a Pushcart-nominated writer and editor. Twice she has been named a finalist for the Oklahoma Book Award. She lives with her husband, William, in Choctaw, Oklahoma.

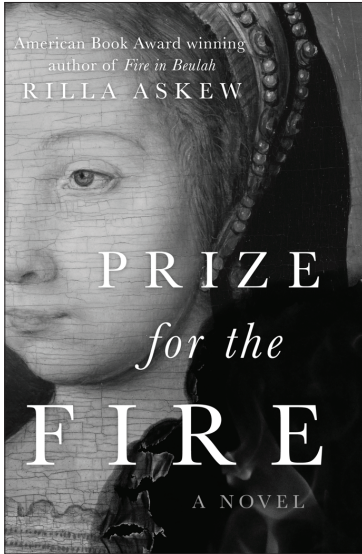
Plot Counterplot William Bernhardt Babylon Books

Dylan Taggart channels his demons through the keyboard. Knocked around by a father who believed weakness was failure, the bestselling suspense author grabs a measure of peace in his gorgeous girlfriend's arms. He sees fiction come to life when masked fanatics break in demanding he put his brilliant mind to work and help them steal a secret military super-weapon. Dylan tries to refuse, but his resolve shatters when they leave his lover for dead and punish him mercilessly. He begins to write the heist scheme as ordered while building a disguised sabotage. Can this tortured artist prevent the death of millions? The author of over fifty books, Bernhardt won the Oklahoma Book Award in fiction for *Perfect Justice* (1995) and *Dark Justice* (2000). The Oklahoma Center for the Book honored him with the Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019. He and his wife, Lara, live in Choctaw, Oklahoma.

No Church, No Preacher Freda Haack Collier Ron V. Collier Publisher

Seven-year-old Gretchen is wise beyond her years. As an adult looking back, it is still hard to take. Did her father, big handsome Joe, kill her grandfather and leave his body hanging from

Congratulations to Our Finalists



Prize for the Fire

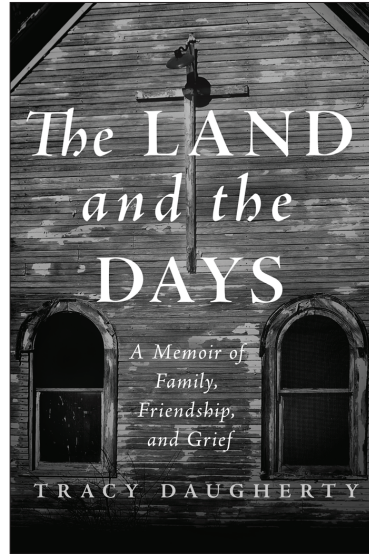
A Novel

By Rilla Askew

\$26.95 HARDCOVER 9780806190723

Published October 2022

Rilla Askew is a novelist, essayist, and short-story writer known for her award-winning historical fiction. *Fire in Beulah*, her novel about the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, received the American Book Award. Her Dust Bowl novel, *Harpson*, received the Oklahoma Book Award, and her essay collection, *Most American: Notes from a Wounded Place*, was long-listed for a PEN America Literary Award. She is Associate Professor of English at the University of Oklahoma. To learn more about her work visit rillaaskew.com.



The Land and The Days

A Memoir of Family, Friendship, and Grief

By Tracy Daugherty

\$24.95 PAPERBACK 9780806176239

Published: January 2022

Tracy Daugherty is Distinguished Professor of English and Creative Writing, Emeritus, at Oregon State University. He has written biographies of Joan Didion, Joseph Heller, and Donald Barthelme, as well as five novels, six short story collections, a book of personal essays, and a collection of essays on literature and writing.



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the windmill? Or did his brother, Clayton, dark and devilish? They had one thing in common. They both loved Joe's wife. Gretchen, however, carries the terrible truth that could destroy the family. Raised on an Oklahoma Panhandle farm, the author's mother left when she was five, and Collier became responsible for the family chores. When she turned thirteen, she went to live with her aunt, uncle, and three cousins in Carnegie, Oklahoma. Collier was a reader and dreamer. She loved the classic novel *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. Her husband, Ron, believes *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* prompted her to write *No Church, No Preacher*. Collier passed away on March 23, 2022.

***The Physicists' Daughter* Mary Anna Evans** Sourcebooks

Sabotage. That's the word on factory worker Justine Byrne's mind as she is repeatedly called to weld machine parts that keep failing with no clear cause. Could someone inside the secretive Carbon Division be deliberately undermining the factory's war efforts? Raised by her late parents to think logically, she also can't help wondering just what the oddly shaped carbon gadgets she assembles daily have to do with the boats the factory builds. Justine suspects German spies are at work within the building. Unable to trust anyone, she draws on the legacy of her unconventional upbringing to keep her division running and protect her coworkers, her country, and herself from a war that is suddenly too close to home. Evans is the author of the award-winning Faye Longchamp Archeological Mysteries. Her book *Catacombs* won the Oklahoma Book Award for fiction in 2020. She lives in Washington, Oklahoma.

***Hardly Any Shooting Starts Left* B.K. Froman** Iron Stream Media

Lexi DePriest has always been a loner with a sharp wit and a lack of concern about fitting in. If she could quickly sell the family ranch, she'd get out of the Oregon valley with all its busybody residents. But life has never been easy. A battle begins when her neighbor shoots down the drone she uses to check fences and livestock. When a corpse appears in her shop, all the trust she's built in herself and with a few townsfolk unravels. Facing a murder charge and aching childhood memories, Lexi teams up with a crabby school secretary and a Scottish welder to secretly examine murder weapons. The investigation gives her a rare choice to fit into the home where she's always lived, but will she choose community, family, or herself? A native of Oklahoma, Froman is an award-winning author of eight novels. She lives in Beaver Creek, Oregon.

***For Those Who Are Lost* Julia Bryan Thomas** Sourcebooks

On the eve of the Nazi invasion of the island of Guernsey, terrified parents have a choice to make: send their children alone to England, or keep the family together and risk whatever may come to their villages. Ava and Joseph Simon reluctantly put their nine-year-old son, Henry, and four-year daughter, Catherine, in the care of their son's teacher, who will escort them on a boat to mainland England. Just as the boat is about to leave, the teacher's sister, Lily, appears. The two women trade places, and Lily accompanies the children to England. Lily also lets Henry get on a train by himself, deciding in a split second to take Catherine with her and walk the other way. The decision lingers long after the war ends, impacting the rest of their lives. A graduate of

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SUMMER READING 2023

Northeastern State University and Yale Writers' Workshop, Thomas is married to mystery novelist Will Thomas. They reside in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Fierce Poison: A Barker & Llewelyn Novel Will Thomas St. Martin's Publishing

When Member of Parliament Roland Fitzhugh arrives at private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker's office to consult him and his partner, Thomas Llewelyn, he falls to the floor, dead. The agents soon learn he has been poisoned with a cyanide-laced raspberry tart. Fitzhugh was just the first victim of the poisoner labeled by the press as the "Mad Pie Man." Former Prime Minister William Gladstone hires the agents to uncover the responsible party, but before they can begin, Barker and Llewelyn find themselves the latest target of this mad poisoner. Now on the run from their unseen adversary, the two must uncover the clues that connect these seemingly random acts and stop the killer before they and their closest friends become the next casualties. Thomas won the Oklahoma Book Award in the fiction category for Barker and Llewelyn novels *Some Danger Involved* (2005), and *Fatal Inquiry* (2015). He and his wife, Julia, live in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Children/Young Adult

Poopsie Gets Lost Hannah E. Harrison Penguin Random House

Poopsie is one pampered kitty. She loves nothing more than her bed. So, when a pushy narrator urges Poopsie out the cat door to find adventure, well...let's just say she's in for a few surprises. Poopsie must rely on her wits and skills to make it past a pack of tigers, a gang of crocodiles, and all the other obstacles standing between her and getting home...for a well-deserved nap. Harrison is an award-winning author and illustrator. She won the Oklahoma Book Award five times for *Extraordinary Jane* (Illustration) in 2015; *Friends Stick Together* (Children and Illustration) in 2019; and *Bear is Awake!* (Children and Illustration) in 2020. Harrison lives in Ada, Oklahoma, with her husband, two girls, and a cat named Peppercorn.

Baa, Baa, Tap Sheep Kenda Henthorn Sleeping Bear Press

As a trio of tired tots settles into bed for the night, the sheep who should be helping them countdown to sleep kick up their hooves instead in an energetic dance performance. Starting with one little lamb and counting up to ten, these "sleep" sheep tap, waltz, and even boogie as they get their nighttime groove on. But finally, after their energy is danced out, nap sheep lull everyone to sleep. Originally from Pennsylvania, Henthorn grew up behind the scenes of her parents' Western movie sets. Those dramas have fueled her dreams since she was a kid on a pony. Currently, Henthorn works in the aviation industry, and resides in Yukon, Oklahoma, where she enjoys flying, kayaking, and riding horses and motorcycles.

Do You Hear What I Hear? Helen Dunlap Newton Yorkshire Publishing

After a tragic accident leaves Noah Baker deaf, he has the chance to regain some of his hearing with a cochlear implant. Upon activation, however, he finds out he's able to hear a whole lot

more than just sound waves—he’s able to hear the thoughts of others. Now Noah has a secret power to deal with on top of everything else in his life! When the government finds out, they attempt to recruit Noah for a top-secret mission. Will he and his snarky partner, Lena, succeed or will Noah’s abilities get them in more trouble than they bargained for? Newton is a veteran middle grade language arts teacher. Her debut middle grade novel, *Night of the Amber Moon* was a 2022 Oklahoma Book Award finalist. She enjoys reading, music, and helping her husband care for their plants and backyard chickens in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

***Lovebird Lou* Tammi Sauer** Sterling Publishing Company

This delightful tale follows Lovebird Lou. When Lou discovers the amazing things other birds can do, he’s convinced that being a lovebird is just too ordinary. Maybe he should be a pelican! Or a flamingo! Or a nightingale! He even tries being a rock! Can Lou figure out what suits him best of all? Or will he discover that lovebirds are lovely? Sauer is the author of more than thirty picture books including *Mary Had a Little Glam*, *Your Alien*, and *A Little Chicken*. She lives in Edmond, Oklahoma, with her family, where they make and carry out all kinds of plans.

***Mary Had a Little Plan* Tammi Sauer** Sterling Publishing Company

Fashion-forward Mary is known for adding flair everywhere she goes. When she spots an abandoned lot in her neighborhood, Mary is certain that she can use her stylish talent to spruce it up. Soon she is rallying local shops and calling on her friends to pitch in. With Mary leading the way, this group carries out a plan that is the perfect balance of glam and communal pride. A former library media specialist, Sauer is an award-winning author. She won the Oklahoma Book Award in 2010 for *Chicken Dance*; in 2011 for *Mostly Monsterly*; and in 2014 for *Nugget & Fang*.

***Three Strike Summer* Skyler Schrempp** Simon & Schuster

Gloria Mae Williard and her family are Dust Bowl migrants in California. She soon learns there are only three rules at the Santa Ana Holdsten Peach Orchard: no stealing product; no drunkenness or gambling; and absolutely no organizing. Well, Gloria isn’t about to organize any peaches. She has more on her mind than that—like the secret, all-boys baseball team she is desperate to play for, if only they’d give her a chance. Also, their company lodgings are dirty and smelly, wages keep going down, and everyone seems intent on leaving her out of everything. But Gloria has never been the type to wait around for permission. Over the course of a single summer, she will have to find her voice and learn how to use it! Schrempp lives in Chicago, Illinois.

Lena and the Burning of Greenwood: A Tulsa Race Massacre Survival Story

Nikki Shannon Smith Capstone Publishing

In the early 1920s, the Greenwood District in Tulsa, Oklahoma, is the wealthiest Black community in the United States. But Tulsa is still a segregated city. Twelve-year-old Lena knows this, but she feels safe and sheltered from the racism in her successful, flourishing neighborhood. That all changes when a young Black man from Greenwood is accused of assaulting a white woman. Racial tensions boil over. Mobs of white citizens attack Greenwood, terrorizing Black residents

and businesses. It will take all of Lena's courage to help her family survive one of the worst incidents of racial violence in American history. Smith has been an elementary school teacher for more than twenty-five years. She is the author of sixteen published and forthcoming books including the *Girls Survive* series, the *Azaleah Lane* chapter book series, and the *Brown Baby Parade* series. She lives in the Sacramento, California area.

BOBBY: A Story of Robert F. Kennedy

Deborah Wiles and **Tatyana Fazlalizadeh** Scholastic Press

This is a poignant story of the life and times of Robert F. Kennedy. Kennedy's determination, persistence, and compassion is told by a grandfather to his grandchild. The story begins with expressing what America and the world was like when Kennedy was born into privilege in 1925. With encouragement to do great things by his father Joseph Kennedy—and his mother's understanding that his true strength lay in his heart for people, Bobby became a prominent lawyer and American politician, who learned to use his advantages in life to make a difference. Following Bobby's assassination, both the grandfather and grandchild walk to meet the funeral train as the grandfather encourages his grandchild to be a voice for change. A native Oklahoman, Fazlalizadeh is an American artist and activist. Her book and street art series *Stop Telling Women to Smile* has been covered by *Time*, NPR, MSNBC, and others. She lives in Brooklyn, New York. Wiles lives in Atlanta, Georgia, with her husband, jazz pianist Jim Pearce.



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Sheldon Russell

Recipient of the **2023 Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award**

Sheldon Russell is the author of fifteen books, including his award-winning historical fiction novels and his popular *Hook Runyon* mystery series. *Dreams to Dust: A Tale of the Oklahoma Land Rush* won the Oklahoma Book Award for fiction in 2007; and was selected by the Oklahoma Commemoration Commission as an Official Centennial Project, and the Langum Project for Historical Literature. A number of finalist nominations have also been awarded over the course of his writing career. In 2022 Russell's novel, *A Forgotten Evil*, won the Spur Award for Best Historical Western from the Western Writers of America.



Russell's books have earned starred reviews from both *Book List* and *Publisher's Weekly*. *The Insane Train* was selected as one of the six best mysteries of 2010 by *Publisher's Weekly*. *The Bridge Troll Murders* won the Oklahoma Book Award for fiction in 2018 and was chosen for the Librarian-Nominated Longlist for the Dublin Literary Award in 2019. His psychological suspense novel, *A Particular Madness*, has been nominated for the 2023 Dublin award. Two new novels, *Justice Rode the Train* and *Listen* are scheduled for release in 2023.

Russell is a graduate of Northwestern Oklahoma State University and Oklahoma State University. He taught graduate school at the University of Louisville and the University of Central Oklahoma, where he retired as Professor Emeritus in 2000.

Nancy, his wife of fifty-nine years, is a talented sculptor in her own right. They have one daughter Shonda who works at the Alva Public Library. The Russell's currently live on the family ranch in the beautiful Gloss Mountains of northwestern Oklahoma.

The Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award

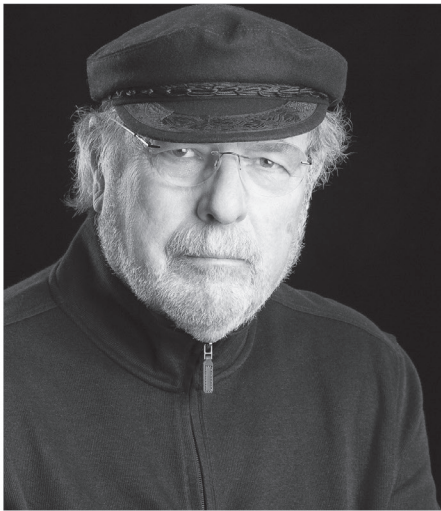
The Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award is presented each year to recognize a body of work. This award is named for the Norman, Oklahoma, historian who served as the first president of the Oklahoma Center for the Book.

The 2023 Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement
Award Recipient

Sheldon Russell



*Our congratulations as we eagerly await the new novels to come,
including our beloved Hook*



I learned from (Pat) Conroy to worry more about quality and less about quantity. From (John) Steinbeck, I learned the power of place, and from (Larry) McMurtry, the structure of narrative well told. I'm still learning from the world of crime writers, Robert B. Parker's incisive use of dialogue, John MacDonald's seamless transitions in his Travis McGee Series, James Patterson's cliff-hanging suspense.

— **SHELDON RUSSELL**



www.THEROADRUNNERPRESS.COM



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*
- 2019 **Children Hannah E. Harrison** • *Friends Stick Together* * **Young Adult Brad McLelland** and **Louis Sylvesterr** • *Legends of the Lost Causes*
- 2020 **Children Hannah E. Harrison** • *Bear Is Awake!* * **Young Adult Kate Hannigan** • *CAPE*
- 2021 **Children Barbara Lowell** • *My Mastodon* * **Young Adult Kim Ventrella** • *The Secret Life of Sam*
- 2022 **Children Mariana Llanos** • *Run, Little Chaski! An Inka Trail Adventure* * **Young Adult Dan SaSuWeh Jones** • *Living Ghosts & Mischievous Monsters: Chilling American Indian Stories*

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 by **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 by **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**, 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*
- 2019 **Design** book design by **Christopher Lee**, cover design by **Steven Walker**, cover photography by **Joel Sartore**, and illustrations by **J.J. Ritchey** • *Love Can Be* * **Illustration Hannah E. Harrison** • *Friends Stick Together*
- 2020 **Design** book design by **Gentry Fisher**, cover design by **Corey Fetters** • *Protecting Our People: Chickasaw Law Enforcement in Indian Territory* * **Illustration Hannah E. Harrison** • *Bear Is Awake!*
- 2021 **Design Tony Roberts** • *Renegades: Bruce Goff and the American School of Architecture*
- 2022 **Design Eric Singleton and Julie Allred** • *Recovering Ancient Spiro: Native American Art, Ritual, and Cosmic Renewal* * **Illustration Joshua (Lokosh) Hinson** • *Funny Fani'*

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** • *Harp song*
- 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*
- 2019 **Lou Berney** • *November Road*
- 2020 **Mary Anna Evans** • *Catacombs*
- 2021 **Aaron Gwyn** • *All God's Children*
- 2022 **Mary Coley** • *Blood on the Mother Road*
- 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*

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*

- 2014 **Mary Jane Warde** • *When the Wolf Came: The Civil War and the Indian Territory*
- 2015 **Cheryl Elizabeth Brown Wattle** • *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*
- 2019 **Robert L. Dorman** • *Alfalfa Bill: A Life in Politics*
- 2020 **Randy Krehbiel** • *Tulsa 1921: Reporting a Massacre*
- 2021 **David W. Levy** • *Breaking Down Barriers: George McLaurin and the Struggle to End Segregated Education*
- 2022 **Michael J. Hightower** • *At War with Corruption: A Biography of Bill Price, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma*
- 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)*
- 2019 **Laura Apol** • *Nothing but the Blood*
- 2020 **Joy Harjo** • *An American Sunrise*
- 2021 **Linda Hogan** • *A History of Kindness*
- 2022 **Ken Hada** • *Contour Feathers*

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*

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
- 2019 **William Bernhardt**—award-winning author—Choctaw
- 2020 No awards program due to COVID-19 epidemic.
- 2021 **Hannibal B. Johnson**—author and historian—Tulsa
- 2021 **Jim Stovall**—author, motivational speaker, and movie producer—Tulsa
- 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
- 2022 **Sanora Babb**, novelist, journalist, and poet—Red Rock

Lynn McIntosh Award for Excellence

- 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*
- 2021 **Russell Cobb** • *The Great Oklahoma Swindle: Race, Religion, and Lies in America's Weirdest State*
- 2022 **Karlos K. Hill** • *The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre: A Photographic History*

Ralph Ellison Award

- 1995 **Ralph Ellison**—National Book Award winner—Oklahoma City

Glenda Carlile Distinguished Service Award

- 1999 **Daniel Boorstin**—Librarian of Congress Emeritus * **John Y. Cole**—Director, Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, 1977–2016 * **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

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 Coddling**, 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**, Oklahoma City 2011–2015
- Jeanne Devlin**, Oklahoma City 2016–2018

Past Executive Directors

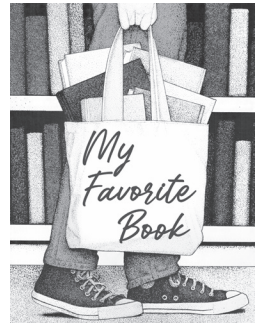
- Jan Blakely** 1986–1988
- Aarone Corwin** 1988–1990
- Ann Hamilton** 1991–1996
- Glenda Carlile** 1996–2009

OKLAHOMA

CENTER FOR THE BOOK

Project Highlights

My Favorite Book—The Oklahoma Center for the Book continued the My Favorite Book writing contest for students in grades four through 12. The Center and its partners started the competition following the demise of the national Letters About Literature initiative. **The 2022–2023 academic year had 774 students from across the state—representing public, private, charter, and homeschools—participate in the contest.** Students were required to write a letter to the author of a favorite book, expressing how the book, or one of the book’s characters, affected them personally. Cash prizes are given for first, second, and third-place winners in each division. Moreover, first-place winners will choose their school or public library to receive a \$1,000 grant. **The awards ceremony will be held May 12, 2023, at the Oklahoma State Capitol Multi-Purpose Room 100.** The competition was also sponsored by the Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book and the Kirkpatrick Foundation. To see the **list of winners and for more information**, go to oklahoma.gov/libraries/ocb/my-favorite-book.



National Book Festival—The Center participated in the 2022 National Book Festival in Washington, D.C. The Center selected Oklahoma **children’s author Mariana Llanos for her book *Run Little Chaski! An Inka Trail Adventure*** and **Sarah Eppler Janda and Patricia Loughlin’s for their edited book *This Land is Herland: Gendered Activism in Oklahoma from the 1870s to the 2010*** for the National Book Festival’s “Roadmap to Reading: Great Reads from Great Places” program. The three authors appeared at the Oklahoma booth in the Great Hall, where they met attendees and signed copies of their books.

Oklahoma Author Database—The Center, its Friends group, and the Oklahoma Department of Libraries continue to maintain this database of Oklahoma authors as an online resource for libraries, schools, and readers. **Visit digitalprairieok.net, scroll down to “Oklahoma Authors,” and click!** If you’re an **eligible Oklahoma author** and you’re not in the database, there are also **instructions for submitting your information**. And ... if you’re in our database, when was the last time you provided us with an update?

Oklahoma Book Festival—The Center has been working with the Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book in preparation for the upcoming 2023 Oklahoma Book Festival. The festival will be held **September 16, 2023, at the Boathouse District** in Oklahoma City.

Friends of the OKLAHOMA
CENTER FOR THE BOOK
Board of Directors

The Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book is a **cultural and educational non-profit organization with the mission to advance and promote the role of books 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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Judy Haught—Elk City
Kathleen Kelly—Norman
Troy Milligan—Oklahoma City
Richard Rouillard—Oklahoma City
Alice Stanton—Weatherford

The Oklahoma Center for the Book wishes to thank

Our Judges

Cheryl Anderson

Pat Brown

Jim Burke

Heather Cook

Julie Collins

Mark Cotner

Brian Dahlvang

Christine Detlaff

Julie Dill

Rudy Ellis

Kathryn Fanning

Dee Fisher

Jennifer Greenstreet

Jessica Isaacs

Jackie Kropp

Sharon Martin

Troy Milligan

Dee Richardson

Genifer Ring

Richard Rouillard

Gaye Sanders

Kristin Sorocco

William R. Struby

Paul Walsh

Susan Wottie

The Center acknowledges the

Generous Contributions

of the following individuals and organizations

Bob Burke

Center for the Book in the Library of Congress

Adam and Betty Falato

Full Circle Books

Oklahoma Department of Libraries

The RoadRunner Press

University of Oklahoma Press

Special Thanks

Ceremony Committee

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

Oklahoma Department of Libraries | Public Information Office

Connie Armstrong, Kaylee Kain, William Struby, and Fara Taylor



The background is a complex collage of abstract, textured panels in various colors including red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and black. Some panels feature geometric patterns like grids or lines, while others are more organic and painterly. A solid red square is positioned on the right side of the collage.

OKLAHOMA

CENTER FOR THE BOOK

200 NE 18 Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3205
oklahoma.gov/libraries/ocb 405-522-3383

The 2023 Oklahoma Book Awards is a project
of the **Oklahoma Department of Libraries**
in partnership with the **Friends of the
Oklahoma Center for the Book.**