

2016

Oklahoma

Book

Awards

*Welcome*

*27th Annual*  
***Oklahoma***  
*Book Awards*  
*Ceremony*

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 also not be possible without  
the generous support of the Friends of the  
Oklahoma Center for the Book.**

BOOK AWARD

# 2016 • Oklahoma Book Awards

Saturday, April 9, 2016 • Jim Thorpe Museum and Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame

Welcome

Jeanne Devlin

President, Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book

Greetings from the State Library

Susan McVey

Director, Oklahoma Department of Libraries

Master of Ceremonies

Sheldon Russell

Award-winning Author

**Glenda Carlile Distinguished Service**  
Award Presentation

Connie Armstrong

Executive Director, Oklahoma Center for the Book

**Ralph Ellison** Award Presentation  
Honoring H. Wayne Morgan

James H. Hart PhD

Hudson Professor and History Department Chair, University of Oklahoma

**Children/Young Adult** Award Presentation

Larry Mike Swain

Author and Educator

**Poetry** Award Presentation

Glenda Carlile

Board Member, Oklahoma Center for the Book

**Design/Illustration/Photography** Award Presentation

Kelley Riha

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

**Non-Fiction** Award Presentation

Doris Dixon

Office of Library Development, Oklahoma Department of Libraries

**Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement** Award Presentation  
Honoring Diane Glancy

Dorothy Alexander

Attorney, Author, and Poet

Announcements

Jeanne Devlin

Music provided by Jill Justice

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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.

# Dr. H. Wayne Morgan

Recipient of the **2016 Ralph Ellison Award**

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Countless University of Oklahoma alums remember Dr. Wayne Morgan as a favorite professor, known for his entertaining lectures and his mentorship. After all, he spent twenty-seven years at the OU Department of History, including six years as chair of the department. But the world will remember Dr. Morgan for something else, and perhaps no one says it better than Lewis L. Gould, professor emeritus of American history at the University of Texas:



“When Morgan received his Ph.D from UCLA in 1960 for his dissertation on the congressional career of William McKinley, there was not an identifiable field of Gilded Age studies within the historical profession. Between the Civil War and Reconstruction and the popular topic of progressivism, the late nineteenth century languished as an area for scholarly interest. There were robber barons, politicians in the mode of Matthew Josephson, and a comic-opera war with Spain that Walter Millis had covered twenty-five years earlier, but otherwise a kind of dead-zone existed between Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt. Into that void stepped Morgan. . . Over the next decade he burst on to the national historical scene as an exponent of a new view of the Gilded Age.”

His seminal 1963 work, *William McKinley and His America*, and the 1965 *America's Road to Empire*, were ground-breaking works of history, kick-starting the search for fresh views of this historical period. And Morgan was there to help other historians in the search, giving them voice when he edited a collection of essays titled *The Gilded Age*. By 1970, Gould writes that Morgan had “made a field that the rest of the profession had to look at in a new way.” In 1997, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award as “Distinguished Historian” from the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era.

His interests ran the gamut of historical, cultural and social issues, as his book titles indicate: *From Hayes to McKinley: National Party Politics, 1877–1896*; *Drugs in America: A Social History, 1800–1980*; and *Keepers of Culture: The Art-Thought of Kenyon Cox, Royal Cortissoz and Frank Jewett Mather Jr.* He edited numerous books of primary materials, including *Yesterday's Addicts: American Society and Drug Abuse, 1865–1920*; *An American Art Student in Paris: The Letters of Kenyon Cox, 1877–1882*; and *American Writers in Rebellion: From Mark Twain to Dreiser*.

Morgan made a major contribution to Oklahoma history when he edited *Newcomers to a New Land*, ten volumes on the major ethnic groups that settled the state. He also penned *Oklahoma: A History*, part of the States & Nation series, with wife and colleague Anne Hodges Morgan.

Both American history and Oklahoma history are much richer thanks to the work of Dr. Morgan.

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## The Ralph Ellison Award

From time to time, the Ralph Ellison Award, honoring a deceased Oklahoma writer, is presented. The award is named after the first recipient, Ralph Ellison, author of the ground-breaking novel *Invisible Man*. A list of Ellison Award recipients is listed on the Previous Winners page of this program.

# Book Award Finalists

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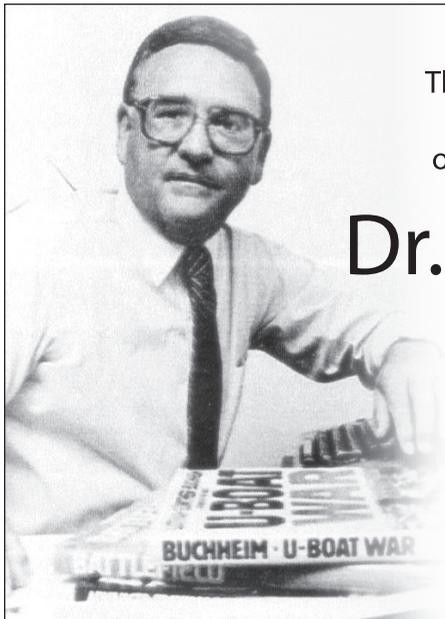
## Children/Young Adult

**Shine** William Bernhardt Babylon Books

"Girl Power" takes on new meaning in the future when a few young women begin to manifest extraordinary abilities called "Shine." When protagonist Aura uses her unique healing powers to help a child, something goes horribly wrong, and a major city is devastated. Rehabilitation centers are set up to reform the Shines, and Aura is about to find out some terrifying secrets at the Transforming Your Light rehab. Multi-award winning Bernhardt is a bestselling author of more than thirty books, a two-time Oklahoma Book Award medalist, and a nationally known writing instructor. He makes his home in Choctaw.

**The Boy Who Carried Bricks** Alton Carter The RoadRunner Press

Abandoned by his father, neglected by his mother, shuttled between foster homes and a boys ranch for most of his formative years, a young man refuses to succumb to the fate that the world says should be his. This is the true story of Carter, who does not mince words as he describes a childhood full of violence, hunger, and isolation. A former police officer, he now serves as the director of youth ministries for the First United Methodist Church of Stillwater. He lives with his wife and two sons.



The Pioneer Library System congratulates the  
Oklahoma Center for the Book  
on choosing for its 2016 Ralph Ellison Award

## Dr. H. Wayne Morgan

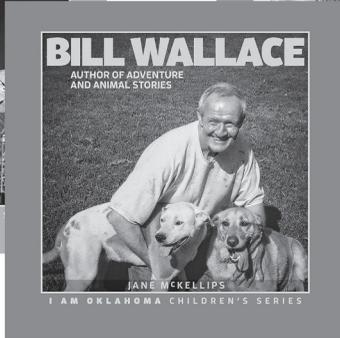
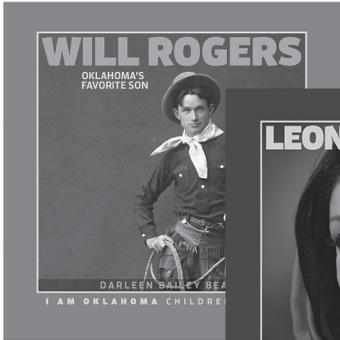
Among his many contributions to  
the State of Oklahoma,  
the University of Oklahoma,  
and the Norman community,  
Dr. Morgan served as a  
Pioneer Library System Trustee  
1982-1985.



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**Ghostlight** **Sonia Gensler** Alfred A. Knopf

Avery's new friend Julian recruits her to help film a ghost story. The problem: Julian wants to film at Hilliard House, a looming empty mansion that Avery's grandmother has forbidden her to enter. But Avery finds the allure of filmmaking impossible to resist. As the two young people explore the secrets of Hilliard House, eerie things begin to happen, and the imaginary dangers in their movie threaten to become very real. This is Gensler's third book; her first YA novel, *The Revenant*, received an Oklahoma Book Award and a Parent's Choice Silver Award. She lives in Norman.

**Bernice Gets Carried Away** **Hannah E. Harrison** Penguin Books

Kitty cat Bernice is already in a bad mood when she attends a birthday party. But the party doesn't help her mood at all! She gets a plain piece of cake without a frosting rose, a terrible flavor of soft drink (prune grapefruit!), and no turn at hitting the piñata. All of this leads Bernice to commit a selfish act that almost turns disastrous. But her thoughtless behavior also gives Bernice a new view on her situation, and an opportunity to discover the joys of sharing. Harrison lives with her family in Ada, where she always makes sure there are plenty of frosting roses to go around at her birthday parties.

**Bike on, Bear!** **Cynthia Liu** Simon & Schuster

Bear is no ordinary cub. He can do practically anything! But Bear has a very hairy problem. He can't ride a bike. Not even with training wheels. Not even with his daddy pushing him along. Not even with the help of his ten best friends. Follow Bear as he employs a library book, science, and the art of self-confidence to try to master the bike. And watch him fail each time. Could Bear be over thinking this whole bike riding thing? Liu spent her formative years in Oklahoma and Texas. Today, she is a writer, writing coach, and public speaker in Chicago.

*“The difference between the right word and the almost right word  
is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug.” —Mark Twain*

Thank you to RoadRunner Press authors  
Alton Carter and Sandy Tharp-Thee  
and the other 2016 Oklahoma Book Award finalists  
for so beautifully choosing their words  
and for enriching the literary heritage of our great state.

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May the day come when every Oklahoman is a reader.



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***The Apple Tree*** **Sandy Tharp-Thee** The RoadRunner Press

Told in both English and Cherokee, Tharp-Thee's story is about a little apple tree that begins to doubt its calling. Why are there no apples this first harvest season? What good is an apple tree that doesn't have apples? The little boy who planted the apple seed and has watched the tree's progress must find a way to give the little plant confidence. What emerges is a tale of nurturing love and grateful thanks. Tharp-Thee is librarian for the Iowa Tribe and is the recipient of the White House Champion of Change Award for her work in advancing print and digital literacy, and for helping to preserve tribal culture and history. An enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation, she lives in Agra, with her family.

## Poetry

***The Art of Digression: A Fragmented Memoir***

**Dorothy Alexander** Village Books Press

Alexander is an attorney, author, poet, publisher, and a tireless promoter of Oklahoma poets. To her, telling stories about our lives "may well be the most important thing we do as humans. We tell them for ourselves, for those around us and for those who come after us. Whether our stories are sad, or painful or joyful, they make us who we are." This fragmented memoir is a collection of stories told in both poetry and prose that are both intimate and universal. Alexander received the Center's 2013 Glenda Carlile Distinguished Service Award for her service to the state's poetry community. She has homes in both Oklahoma and New Mexico.

***To Sing Hallucinated: First Thoughts on Last Words*** **Nathan Brown** Mezcalita Press

Brown uses the last dying words of the famous as springboards for this collection of poems, poems that take us places we probably were not expecting to go. The poetry ranges from Bukowski-like to Blake-like, with humor and subversiveness. Norman-born-and-raised Brown is also a songwriter and photographer. He served as Poet Laureate of Oklahoma in 2013 and 2014, and leads workshops on the creative process and creative writing. His collection *Two Tables Over* received the 2009 Oklahoma Book Award. Today he calls Wimberley, Texas, home.

***String Theory*** **Jenny Yang Cropp** Mongrel Empire Press

South Dakota Poet Laureate Lee Ann Roripugh calls Cropp's debut collection a "devastating meditation on mixed-race identity. This volume navigates the fraught distances between maternal Korean ancestry and hardscrabble Oklahoma roots." In these intimate memories, and in these snapshots of her daily life, Cropp reveals an Oklahoma perspective in a unique voice. Cropp lives in Lawton with her husband and son, and teaches English at Cameron University.

***The Glory Gets*** **Honorée Fanonne Jeffers** Wesleyan University Press

Jeffers' collection of Jazz Improv poetry pulls us into heartbreak and struggles few of us have experienced. Not content to let injustices reside in the past, the poet brings the pain of suffering to the surface, insisting that we see it for what it is, and how it affects us to this day. Jeffers is the author of three previous books of poetry, and her poems have appeared widely in anthologies and journals. She is the 2014 Witter Bynner



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Poetry Fellow, an honor awarded by the U.S. Poet Laureate. She is an associate professor of English at the University of Oklahoma.

***Places I Was Dreaming* Loren Graham** CavanKerry Press

Different voices speak, often side by side, in the poems of Graham's third collection. The poetry reads like an Oklahoma autobiography, without sentimentality, as it follows a young boy and his family living in rural poverty. Graham was raised in and around Broken Arrow and studied at Oklahoma Baptist University before receiving advanced degrees at Baylor University and the University of Virginia. He received a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in 2009 for poems that became part of this collection. He lives in Montana with his wife.

***Love's Labors* Brent Newsom** CavanKerry Press

There is the feel of "community" in Newsom's poetry, with all of the promise and challenges that the word conjures. His "narrative and lyric impulses" might be tuned to "an idiom rooted in his native Louisiana"—as the cover flap declares—but there is immediate recognition of the very personal world Newsom presents; we get to know this community and its people. A native of Southwest Louisiana, Newsom has also lived in Texas and China. His poetry has appeared in several journals and anthologies. He lives in Shawnee, with his wife and two children.

***Deep Calls to Deep* Audrey Streetman** Audrey Streetman, publisher

Poems steeped in daily family life contrast with personal reflections and observational pieces to create this poignant, and often playful, collection. This is Streetman's fourth book of poetry, and her poems have appeared in a number of journals and anthologies. Much of her work reflects her country heritage (she grew up in rural Texas) as well as Oklahoma, which she has called home since 1967. Streetman lives in Oklahoma City, and has three daughters and eight grandchildren.

## Design/Illustration/Photography

***Bernice Gets Carried Away*** illustrated by **Hannah E. Harrison** Penguin Books

This picture book is beautifully illustrated, with delicate textures, fine details, and glorious color. As she showed with her Oklahoma Book Award-winning *Extraordinary Jane*, Harrison wields a firm command of the art of visual storytelling. Lovingly rendered characters and backgrounds pull young readers into the story. Harrison lives in Ada, with her family.

***Chokma'si: The Beauty of the Chickasaw Nation***

photography by **Branden Hart**, book design by **Corey Feters** Chickasaw Press

Hart's striking photography captures the beauty and dignity of historical artifacts, buildings, and places in the Chickasaw Nation. The book design provides for a generous presentation of the large, high-quality photographs, filling and bleeding off the pages. Hart is a commercial photographer who works out of Norman. Book designer Feters works for Chickasaw Press and lives in Roff.

***Making Friends Was My Business*** book design by **Laura Hyde** Müllerhaus Legacy

Hyde's design for this celebratory book effectively illustrates the story of Oklahoma's Bud Man, Denny Cresap, and his family. Beginning with a cover that features a simulation of carved leather, insets, and burnished copper, and carrying through to pages that resemble both a high-quality scrapbook and glossy advertisements, nearly every detail seems fully considered. Hyde has over twelve years of experience working as a graphic artist. She lives in Tulsa.

***Winter's Hawk: Red-tails on the Southern Plains*** photography by **Jim Lish**

book design by **Julie Rushing**, cover design by **Anthony Roberts** University of Oklahoma Press

*Winter's Hawk* showcases a multitude of striking images of hawks flying and surveying their territory with careful photograph layout and judicious use of white space. Together with its prevalence of landscape photographs and blue skies, the open composition of the book has the honest appeal of the vast Southern Plains, encouraging our attention. Lish is associate professor at the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences in Stillwater. Rushing and Roberts picked up the 2015 Oklahoma Book Award for their design work on another OU Press title, *A Legacy in Arms*.

***Illittibaaimpa': Let's Eat Together! A Chickasaw Cookbook***

photography by **Sanford Mauldin**, book and cover design by **Corey Fetters** Chickasaw Press

Stunning photographs of food are the centerpiece of this book, the second cookbook published by Chickasaw Press. The design, featuring earthy colors and generous use of printers' ornaments, is warm and welcoming with the feel of a comfortable kitchen. Mauldin picked up an Oklahoma Book Award for his photography for the Chickasaw Press' first cookbook back in 2012. He is a commercial photographer in Norman. Designer Fetters has two books that are finalists in this category. He lives in Roff.

## Fiction

***The Long and Faraway Gone*** **Lou Berney** HarperCollins

In this suspenseful thriller, Berney introduces the reader to two unsolved criminal cases—inspired by actual cases—that shook Oklahoma City to its core. During the summer of 1986, six movie theater employees were killed during an armed robbery attempt, and a teenage girl disappeared from the state fair. Now twenty-five years later, two individuals closely associated to the crimes attempt to unravel the dark secrets of the past. Berney is the author of two previous novels, *Whiplash River* and *Gunshot Straight*. He is also a television and film screenwriter, and teaches writing at the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma City University.

***The Game Master*** **William Bernhardt** Babylon Books

In this intriguing mystery, Bernhardt takes the reader to glamorous places such as Paris, Dubai, Pyongyang, and Alexandria. B.B. Thomas, "The Game Master," finds himself in a web of mystery that involves modern and ancient games as he seeks to find his kidnapped daughter and those responsible for murdering a

renowned scientist. Thomas soon discovers that someone is out to destroy every government on the planet, regardless of the number of lives lost. Bernhardt is the bestselling author of over thirty books. He won the Oklahoma Book Award in the fiction category in 1995 for *Perfect Justice* and in 2000 for *Dark Justice*. He lives in Choctaw.

### ***Cherokee Ice* John T. Biggs** Pen-L Publishing

Is Danny Riley really a witch? Many on his Navajo reservation believe that he is, because some of Danny's enemies experience supernatural events, including being set on fire and ending up stranded in the desert. In this story of addiction, Biggs weaves native mysticism and colorful characters around a legendary form of methamphetamine known as Cherokee Ice. Biggs is the author of *Sacred Alarm Clock* and *Owl Dreams*. His book *Popsicle Styx* was selected as an Oklahoma Book Award fiction finalist in 2015. He lives in Oklahoma City.

### ***All Men Fear Me* Donis Casey** Poisoned Pen Press

In her latest Alafair Tucker Mystery, Casey explores the tension in American society as the United States enters World War I and introduces the country's first draft lottery. Alafair's family in Boynton, Oklahoma, is caught in the middle when her brother Rob Gunn, a socialist and union organizer, comes to town. Friction soon arises between Rob and Alafair's son Charlie, a rabid patriot. When problems arise at the local brick company, including the murder of two supervisors, everyone suspects sabotage. It is Charlie who devises a plan to expose the person behind these mysterious incidents. Born and raised in Tulsa, Casey is a third generation Oklahoman. She now resides in Tempe, Arizona.

### ***Ant Dens* Mary Coley** Wheatmark

Coley meticulously weaves a suspenseful story around one of the worst parental fears: a child's disappearance. In Las Vegas, Mexico, young women are vanishing, including college freshman Rebecca Aldrich. Desperate to find her stepdaughter, Jamie Aldrich soon discovers that the local area, as well as the life of her deceased husband, is surrounded in mystery. Coley is the author of two other books, including *Beehives* and *Cobwebs*. Coley and her husband divide their time between Tulsa, and north central New Mexico.

### ***The Art of Crash Landing* Melissa DeCarlo** HarperCollins

Pregnant and broke, Mattie Wallace's life is spiraling downward rapidly, and she worries her life is mirroring the life of her late mother, who made nothing but bad choices. Upon hearing of a possible inheritance, Mattie travels to her mother's hometown of Gandy, Oklahoma. She soon discovers the mother she knew growing up, is not the person local townspeople describe. Why the change? What caused her mother, a once popular and talented person, to descend into an abyss? In an attempt to find the answers, Mattie seeks to redeem her own life. This is DeCarlo's debut novel. She was born and raised in Oklahoma City, and now lives in East Texas with her husband and rescue animals.

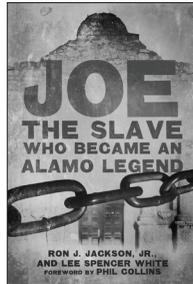
### ***Two Days in Caracas* Luana Ehrlich** Luana Ehrlich, publisher

In this high velocity drama, CIA intelligence officer Titus Ray is desperate to find and stop Ahmed Al-Amin, a Hezbollah assassin, from successfully carrying out his mission to kill a high profile government official.

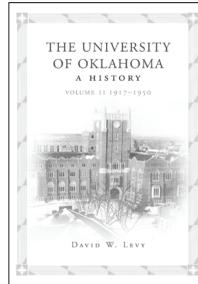
# Congratulations to our finalists for the Oklahoma Book Awards



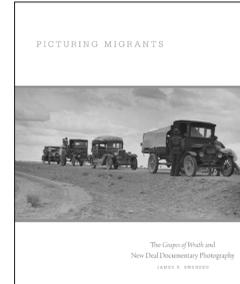
**WINTER'S HAWK**  
Red-tails on the  
Southern Plains  
By Jim Lish



**JOE, THE SLAVE  
WHO BECAME AN  
ALAMO LEGEND**  
By Ron J. Jackson and  
Lee Spencer White



**THE UNIVERSITY  
OF OKLAHOMA**  
A History Volume II:  
1917-1950  
By David W. Levy

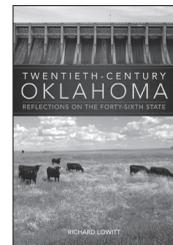
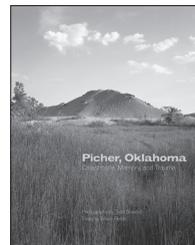
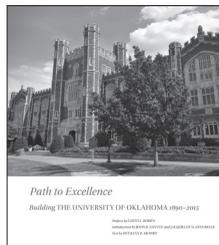
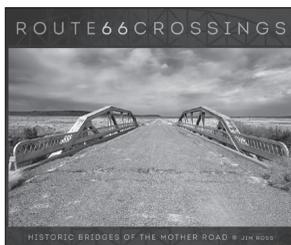


**PICTURING  
MIGRANTS**  
The Grapes of Wrath and  
New Deal Documentary  
Photography  
By James R. Swensen

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## New Oklahoma titles from University of Oklahoma Press

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Ray is impeded in his quest to bring Al-Amin to justice by a family crisis and a CIA leader out to destroy his career. This is Ehrlich's second novel in the Titus Ray Thriller series. Luana credits her love of books and writing to her father, who allowed her to read spy thrillers as a young child. She currently resides in Norman, with her husband James.

***Isolation* Mary Anna Evans** Poisoned Pen Press

Archaeologist Faye Longchamp-Mantooth and her husband Joe and young son live in an old plantation home in Joyeuse, an isolated Florida island. After experiencing a personal loss, Faye cannot seem to reach out to those who love her the most. Rather, she sets out to dig holes in her backyard. When a local friend is murdered, Faye struggles to find the culprit. She discovers her family's history might hold the answers. As she begins to unravel the mystery, she finds her family, friends, home, and even the ground beneath her are endangered. This is the ninth in Evans's award-winning Faye Longchamp mysteries. She is a resident of Norman, where she teaches writing at the University of Oklahoma.

***Town Hall* Clay Hutto** Harbinger Press

In this slyly satirical novel set in 1979, the small town of Buffalo City, Oklahoma, is all-abuzz when President Jimmy Carter comes to hold a town hall meeting. This funny and poignant story is told from the perspective of five individuals: the town mayor and newspaper publisher; the town's mortician; a young, ambitious reporter; the mayor's wife; and a potential assassin. Raised in Oklahoma, Hutto now lives in Portland, Oregon, with his wife and his menagerie of pets.

***A Flying Affair* Carla Stewart** Hachette Book Group

Stewart once again delights the reader with this adventurous story of aviation and romance. The year is 1927, and famed aviator Charles Lindberg is flying around the country in *The Spirit of Saint Louis*. Mittie Humphreys yearns to fly, and is assisted in her quest by two potential suitors. As she pursues her goal to compete in the Women's National Air Derby, Mittie must contend with Calista, a rival who competes with her professionally and for the man she loves. Stewart is an award-winning author of six novels. She and her husband live in Tulsa.

## Non-fiction

***The Mercy of the Sky* Holly Bailey** Viking/Penguin Random House

Bailey takes the reader back to May 20, 2013, a day when one of the most devastating tornadoes ever recorded tore through Moore, Oklahoma, killing twenty-five people, including seven third graders, and injuring hundreds more. In this harrowing account regarding that day's events, Bailey tells the story from several points of view, including the principal and teachers at Plaza Elementary School, a meteorologist, and scientists at the National Weather Service in Norman. Bailey, a native of Oklahoma City, is a professional journalist. She currently lives in Brooklyn, New York.

***Te Ata: Chickasaw Storyteller, American Treasure* Richard Green** Chickasaw Press

Green provides an exceptional biography of Chickasaw artist Te Ata, whose dramatic storytelling held audiences spellbound. Green follows Te Ata from her childhood in Oklahoma through her education at the Oklahoma College for Women, where a female drama teacher realized her potential and encouraged her to develop her creative talents. The author continues Te Ata's story, including her marriage to Clyde Fisher, her life among New York's intelligentsia and cultural elite, and the career that took her to perform on stages worldwide, culminating in 1987 when she was named Oklahoma's first official State Treasure. Green serves as tribal historian for the Chickasaw Nation.

***Wenonah's Story: A Memoir of a Chickasaw Family* Robin Gunning** Chickasaw Press

Gunning provides a touching account of his mother J. Wenonah Paul Gunning and her family, the Pauls of the Chickasaw Nation town of Pauls Valley. The narrative includes the courtship and marriage of Wenonah's parents, Bill and Victoria Paul, the sudden death of a child, and the family's struggle to regain their footing. Gunning continues with the family's role in the Chickasaw Nation politics of Indian Territory, Wenonah's time at Bloomfield Academy and the University of Oklahoma, her experiences growing up in Pauls Valley, and the influential roles her brothers Homer and Haskell Paul played in Oklahoma state government. A retired physician, Gunning lives with his wife, Sarah, in Lone Tree, Colorado.

***Joe: The Slave Who Became an Alamo Legend* Ron Joseph Jackson Jr. and  
Lee Spencer White** University of Oklahoma Press

Jackson and White deliver a fascinating account of the battle of the Alamo as they relate the story of the only eyewitness and survivor of that fateful conflict: Joe, a twenty-year old slave of Lieutenant Colonel William Barret Travis. The authors trace Joe's story from his birth in Kentucky through his life in slavery—which resumed after he took part in the Texans' battle for independence—to his eventual escape and disappearance into the shadows of history. Jackson lives in Binger, and is the author of *Alamo Legacy: Alamo Descendants Remember the Alamo* and *Blood Prairie: Perilous Adventures on the Oklahoma Frontier*. White is an independent researcher, preservationist, and historical consultant.

***The University of Oklahoma: A History, Volume II, 1917–1950*  
David W. Levy** University of Oklahoma Press

Levy continues the story of the University of Oklahoma in this second volume, documenting the institution's evolution into a complex, diverse, and multifaceted seat of learning. Levy weaves together human and institutional history as he describes the school's development in response to unprecedented factors: two world wars, the cultural shifts of the 1920s, the Great Depression, the rise of the petroleum industry, the farm crisis and Dust Bowl, the emergence of new technologies, and new political and social forces such as those promoting and resisting racial justice. Levy is retired as the Irene and Julian J. Rothbaum Professor of Modern American History and David Ross Boyd Professor of History at the University of Oklahoma. He lives in Norman.

## ***The Shepherd Who Didn't Run: Father Stanley Rother, Martyr from Oklahoma***

**Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda** Our Sunday Visitor Publishing

Scaperlanda explores the life and work of Oklahoma missionary Father Stanley Rother, who arrived in Guatemala and settled among the Tz'utujil Indians. The author explores Rother's early life in Okarche, his call to the priesthood, and his 1968 pilgrimage to Guatemala, where he immediately identified with his parishioners' simple, farming lifestyle. Civil War eventually enveloped Guatemala, and despite the fact Rother's name had been placed on a death list, he continued to serve his God and the people he loved until he was martyred at the age of forty-six. Scaperlanda is an award-winning author, journalist, and retreat facilitator. She and her husband reside in Norman.

## ***The Cherokee Diaspora: An Indigenous History of Migration, Resettlement, and Identity*** **Gregory D. Smithers** Yale University Press

Smithers's book uncovers the origins of the Cherokee diaspora and explores how communities and individuals have negotiated their Cherokee identities, even when geographically removed from the Cherokee Nation headquartered in Tahlequah. Beginning in the eighteenth century, the author transports the reader back in time to tell the poignant story of the Cherokee people migrating throughout North America, including their forced exile along the infamous Trail of Tears (1838–39). Smithers currently serves as associate professor of history at Virginia Commonwealth University. He lives in Richmond, Virginia.

## ***Picturing Migrants: The Grapes of Wrath and New Deal Documentary Photography*** **James R. Swensen** University of Oklahoma Press

Swenson investigates the connection and impact John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* and the New Deal's Farm Security Administration (FSA) photography have had on the historiography of the 1930s. Looking at the work of Dorothea Lange, Horace Bristol, Arthur Rothstein, and Russell Lee, Swenson contends that Steinbeck explicitly turned to these period photographs to create his visceral narrative of hope and loss among Okie migrants in search of a better life in California. When many dismissed *The Grapes of Wrath's* imagery as fantasy, Lee traveled to Oklahoma for proof. Swenson utilizes lesser-known images to provide an understanding of the FSA's work regarding the migrant's plight. Swenson is assistant professor of art history and history of photography at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

# Diane Glancy

Recipient of the **2016 Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award**

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Few Arrell Gibson Award recipients have been as prolific in so many genres as Diane Glancy. She has excelled in poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, essays, playwriting, and screenwriting—winning awards and critical acclaim along the way.

Born of Cherokee and German/English descent, Glancy's work often weaves Native and Christian traditions together, and the similarities and contrasts of these traditions has provided a wellspring for her creativity. This multi-cultural experience finds resonance in much of her poetry (where she experiments with "a broken text to carry a broken heritage") and in the novels *Flutie* (1998), *Designs of the Night Sky* (2002), and her Oklahoma Book Award-winning *The Mask Maker* (2002).



Glancy grew up in Kansas City and attended the University of Missouri, planning to study journalism. After attending a writing workshop that introduced her to poetry, she knew what she wanted to do.

After she received her bachelor's degree in English in 1964, she moved to Tulsa. She spent the next 20 years in Oklahoma, raising a family, earning a master's degree from the University of Central Oklahoma, and researching her Cherokee heritage. She was Artist-in-Residence with the State Arts Council of Oklahoma from 1980 to 1988, when she began publishing her work. She joined the faculty of Macalester College in Minnesota in 1989 teaching Native American Literature and creative writing. Today, she is professor emerita at the college.

Glancy's other novels include *Stone Heart*, about Sacajawea and the Lewis and Clark expedition; *The Man Who Heard the Land*; *Pushing the Bear*, about the 1838–39 Cherokee Trail of Tears; and *Pushing the Bear: After the Trail of Tears*. She has published two books of plays, *American Gypsy* and *War Cries*. Her latest works are the novels *Uprising of Goats*, *One of Us*, and *Ironic Witness*.

In 2010, Glancy adapted her novel *Flutie* to make the independent film, *The Dome of Heaven*, a title she took from the western Oklahoma sky. The film, made in and around Vici, Oklahoma, was an official selection of twenty independent film festivals and won several awards. In 2013, she made a second film, *Four Quartets*; and the script is finished for a third film, *When Everett Was Still Dancing*.

Whether Glancy's art emerges on the page, in a poetry reading, on the screen, or in the classroom, the land of Oklahoma remains an influence on her work.

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## 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

## Non-Fiction

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- 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 Wattley** • *A  
Step Toward Brown v. Board of Education:  
Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher and Her Fight to  
End Segregation*

## Fiction

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- 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** • *Harpsong*  
 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*

## Poetry

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- 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*

## Children/Young Adult

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- 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 Monsters* \* **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*

## Design/Illustration

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- 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*

## Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award

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- 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

## Ralph Ellison Award

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- 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

## Glenda Carlile Distinguished Service Award

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- 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

## Directors Awards

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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*

## Past Presidents

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- 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**, Okla. City—2011–2015

## Past Executive Directors

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



# Project Highlights

**Double R Author Tour**—The Center worked with the Office of Library Development in the Department of Libraries to launch the Double R (Reading Roundup) Author Tour. The tour is the result of ODL receiving a \$40,000 grant from the Children’s Reading Trust to place recent children/young adult books written by Oklahoma Book Award winners and finalists in Oklahoma’s public libraries. The Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book and the Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma each donated \$1,500 to cover the cost of the author tour. In October 2015, Oklahoma Book Award medalist and finalist **Sonia Gensler** (author of *The Revenant*, *The Dark Between*, and *Ghostlight*), and finalist **Tara Hudson** (author of *Arise*, *Hereafter*, and *Elegy*) appeared at public libraries in Blanchard, Edmond, Prague, Piedmont, and Sulphur. The authors also made appearances at a school in each community. This is a four-year project that will ultimately culminate with a Teen Book Festival to be held in Guthrie.

**Literary Landmark**—The Oklahoma Center for the Book, and its Friends group, served as a co-sponsor for the 2015 Literary Landmark dedication honoring Oklahoma author and journalist **Harold Keith**. The dedication was held on May 3, 2015, at the Norman Public Library Center. The OCB and the Friends group have continued to support this literary award over the years. Oklahoma has the second highest number of Literary Landmarks in the nation, thanks to the work of FOLIO—Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma.

**National Book Festival**—The Oklahoma Center for the Book hosted a booth in the Pavilion of States at the 2015 National Book Festival held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. **The RoadRunner Press** provided 539 free copies of its children/YA titles for distribution at the booth. Additional materials regarding Oklahoma and our state’s great literary heritage were also distributed to attendees.

**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.ok.gov](http://www.digitalprairie.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 Kitty Pittman at 405/522-3192 or email [Kitty.Pittman@libraries.ok.gov](mailto:Kitty.Pittman@libraries.ok.gov).

**Oklahoma Library Association Annual Conference**—The Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book sponsored a presentation by Oklahoman and Alex Award-winning author **Keija Parssinen** at the OLA Conference. It has become an annual tradition for the Friends to sponsor author appearances each year at the OLA Conference.

**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 his or her life. Nine students will be honored on May 3, at the Oklahoma Judicial Center. State legislators will be invited to congratulate these young readers and writers. Three first-place winners will receive a commemorative plaque and a cash prize. The six second-and-third place winners will receive a cash prize. Once again, this year's statewide competition is co-sponsored by attorney **Laurie Williams**. As a result of her generosity, the first-place winners' libraries will each receive a \$1,000 grant!

**Library of Congress to Honor Oklahoma Poet!** The nation's library will honor poet **Allison Hedge Coke** at a special reading, Thursday, April 28, at 6:30 PM at the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library in Oklahoma City. A reception and book signing will follow. Allison is the 2016 Witter Bynner Fellowship winner. Witter Bynner Fellows are selected by the U.S. Poet Laureate in conjunction with the Library of Congress. In his selection, Poet Laureate **Juan Felipe Herrera** said he sought to honor Hedge Coke "for her precision of Earth, of suffering in and out of the Rez, of the workers unnamed, open roads knitted with tin shacks, Case '45 tractors, ancestor dust and the spirit tuned to caribou, America and song." Her honors include an American Book Award, an Independent Publisher Book Award, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from Native Writers' Circle of the Americas. She is the author of four poetry collections: *Streaming* (2015); *Blood Run* (2006 UK, 2007 US); *Off-Season City Pipe* (2005); *Dog Road Woman* (1997); *Rock, Ghost, Willow, Deer* (2014), a memoir; and a chapbook, *Year of the Rat* (1996). Sponsors for the Oklahoma City reading include the **Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book**, **Red Earth MFA @ Oklahoma City University**, **Metropolitan Library System**, and **Best of Books**.



2016 Witter Bynner Poetry Fellow **Allison Hedge Coke** with U.S. Poet Laureate **Juan Felipe Herrera** in Washington, D.C., March 9, 2016.



The Oklahoma Center for the Book  
wishes to thank this year's

## Judges

Jim Burke  
Heather Cook  
Mark Cotner  
Brian Dahlvang  
Jan Davis  
Julie Dill  
Doris Dixon  
Jennifer England  
Bettie Estes-Rickner  
Kathryn Fanning  
Dee Fisher  
Jessica Isaacs  
Sharon Martin

Judith Matthews  
Troy Milligan  
Vicki Mohr  
Kelley Riha  
Richard Rouillard  
Donna Skvarla  
David Smith  
Kristin Sorocco  
William R. Struby  
Larry Mike Swain  
Anna Todd  
Theresa Walther

The Center acknowledges the

## Generous Contributions

of the following organizations  
and individuals

Best of Books, Edmond  
Bob Burke for Oklahoma Heritage  
Association Publishing  
Center for the Book in the Library of Congress  
Chickasaw Press  
Dunlap Codding  
Oklahoma Department of Libraries  
Pioneer Library System  
The RoadRunner Press  
Laurie Williams

## Special Thanks

### **Ceremony Committee**

Connie Armstrong, Gini Campbell, Glenda Carlile, and Dee Fisher

### **Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Public Information Office**

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



# Friends of the Center

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.

President—**Jeanne Devlin**—Oklahoma City

Vice-President—**Liz Coddling**—Edmond

Secretary—**Glenda Carlile**—Oklahoma City

Treasurer—**Gini Moore Campbell**—Oklahoma City

**Connie Armstrong**—Norman

**Steven Baker**—Norman

**Bob Burke**—Oklahoma City

**Jennifer Greenstreet**—Ada

**Kevin Hargus**—Norman

**Julia Harmon**—Shawnee

**Joe Hight**—Edmond

**Karen Klinka**—Edmond

**Yvonne Lackey**—Blanchard

**Lynn McIntosh**—Ardmore

**Susan McVey**—Oklahoma City

**Troy Milligan**—Oklahoma City

**Karen Neurohr**—Stillwater

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