

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL

OKLAHOMA BOOK AWARDS

2024

Oklahoma. Books & Authors

CELEBRATING

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CENTER FOR THE BOOK



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Bob Burke



This evening would not be possible without the continued support of the Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book.



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 BOOK AWARDS

Order of Events

Welcome

Connie Armstrong
Director, Oklahoma Center for the Book

Greetings from the State Library

Natalie Currie
Director, State Librarian and Archivist, Oklahoma Department of Libraries

Master of Ceremonies

Kelley Riha
President, Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book

AWARD PRESENTATIONS



Poetry

Mary B. Gray
Winner of the 2023 Oklahoma Book Award for Poetry



**Glenda Carlile
Distinguished Service Award**

Glenda Carlile
Board Member, Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book



Non-Fiction

Rudy Ellis
Board Member, Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book



Design/Illustration/Photography

Troy Milligan
Board Member, Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book



Fiction

Richard Rouillard
Board Member, Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book



In Memoriam

Connie Armstrong



My Favorite Book

Connie Armstrong



Children/Young Adult

Gini Campbell
Board Member, Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book



Lynn McIntosh Award for Excellence

Kelley Riha



**Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement
Honoring LeAnne Howe**

Phillip Carroll Morgan
Award-winning author

Announcements

Kelley Riha



**A room without
books is like a body
without a soul.**

- Cicero

OKLAHOMA BOOK AWARDS

Finalists



POETRY
FINALISTS

COME BEFORE WINTER

BY **Ken Hada**

Turning Plow Press

This is Hada's eleventh poetry collection. These beautifully written poems have been described as a reflection of Ralph Waldo Emerson's "dialogue between natural fact and spiritual fact in creative interplay." However, these poems are much more than mere observations of nature, or thoughts about nature. It is a record of reciprocating and interwoven relationships, a triumvirate of nature, spirit, and the mind of the poet that meet on many paths throughout the book. This body of Hada's work is an invitation written with a keen and pressing awareness of time passing, measured, and marked by the turning of the seasons. Hada is a professor at East Central University, where he has directed the Scissortail Creative Writing Festival for eighteen years. He resides in Ada, Oklahoma.

SAND: AT THE MERCY OF WIND

BY **Karen Kay Knauss**

Peach Tree Press

In this wonderfully woven set of poems, Knauss compares the human experience with a helpless grain of sand at the mercy of wind. During life's journey, events beyond our control gradually break us down, causing us to feel smaller and smaller, until at times, we seem no more significant than a grain of sand. However, as change and personal transformation occurs, a realization sets in that not everything is out of our control—or entirely in it. Oklahoma Poet Laureate Carol Hamilton states, "With language both tender and precise, Knauss carries the reader along, so we may experience reality in a new and deeper way." Knauss is the author of fourteen poetry collections. She was selected as an Oklahoma Book Award finalist in poetry for her books *Red Corn Moon* (2020) and *Cream Lines* (2023). Knauss lives in Blanchard, Oklahoma.



POETRY
FINALISTS (CONTINUED)

TALLCHIEF

BY **Elise Paschen**

Magic City Books Press

In this stunningly heartfelt collection of poems, Paschen pays homage to her mother, internationally famous Prima Ballerina Maria Tallchief. These poems vividly describe Tallchief's career from a daughter's perspective. In the poem "Eurydice" the author writes, "Mother, when I was young, I watched you from the wings and saw the sweat dripping from arms and neck, your gasp for breath. I thought it was your last. But no, you'd towel off, and then step back into the spotlight, smiling." The collection also includes the poem "Wi'-gi-e," which inspired the title for the book *Killers of the Flower Moon* and its subsequent film adaptation. Paschen is an enrolled member of the Osage Nation. Her books include *The Nightlife*, *Bestiary*, and *Infidelities*. She lives in Chicago, Illinois.

VIVIA: THE LEGEND OF VIVIA THOMAS

BY **Linda Neal Reising**

Kelsay Books

Reising's compelling poetry collection brings the legend of Vivia Thomas to life. The author's use of words and writing style keep the reader mesmerized as the events of Thomas's life unfold on the page. Poet Ken Hada writes, "Reising presents an insightful mix of mythology, history, and imagination. Her novelette helps us understand the unknown, but plausible, details of a fascinating, albeit, tragic life." A native Oklahoman, Reising is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. Her work has been published in notable journals including *The Southern Indian Review*, *The Comstock Review*, and *Nimrod*. She was named an Oklahoma Book Award finalist in poetry for *Re-Writing Family History* (2015) and *Stone Roses* (2022). Reising lives in Poseyville, Indiana.



NON-FICTION
FINALISTS

THIS INDIAN KID: A NATIVE AMERICAN MEMOIR

BY **Eddie Chuculate**

Scholastic Inc.

Chuculate emerges as one of the nation's premiere storytellers as he relates his coming-of-age as a Native American. This memoir is a love letter to the author's Indigenous roots and an inspiring and necessary message about acceptance and empathy, love, and perspective. Chuculate's *Cheyenne Madonna* won a PEN/O Henry Prize.

LEON RUSSELL: THE MASTER OF SPACE AND TIME'S JOURNEY THROUGH ROCK & ROLL HISTORY

BY **Bill Janovitz**

Hachette Book Group

Janovitz explores the life and times of one of America's most iconic musicians, Oklahoma native Leon Russell. The author describes Russell as an underappreciated artist, whose career began in the 1950s when he toured with Jerry Lee Lewis. He went on to play piano on records for Frank Sinatra, the Beach Boys, Phil Spector, and other classic songs by major recording artists. In his prime Russell filled stadiums on solo tours, and established Shelter Records in 1969, where he discovered and debuted albums of Tom Petty, the Gap Band, Phoebe Snow, and J.J. Cale. The author also notes the demons Russell fought including substance abuse, severe depression, and a crippling stage fright. Janovitz is the author of *The Rolling Stones Exile on Main St.* He lives with his family in Boston, Massachusetts.

A PROMISE KEPT: THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND MCGIRT V. OKLAHOMA

BY **Robert J. Miller** AND **Robbie Ethridge**

University of Oklahoma Press

Miller and Ethridge take an in-depth study of the 2020 United States Supreme Court case *McGirt v. Oklahoma* and its ramifications going forward. The authors begin by exploring the history of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation from its origins, the removal of the Creek Indians, the Muscogee (Creek) Reservation in Indian Territory, and Oklahoma encroachment, which resulted in most of the tribe's reservation boundaries being lost. The authors examine the case law that preceded *McGirt v. Oklahoma* before delving into the landmark case itself, the Supreme Court's ruling, and its consequences. Miller is a law professor at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. Ethridge is a professor of anthropology at the University of Mississippi.



NON-FICTION
FINALISTS (CONTINUED)

CORN DANCE: INSPIRED FIRST AMERICAN CUISINE

BY **Loretta Barrett Oden** AND **Beth Dooley** **University of Oklahoma Press**

Growing up in Shawnee, Oklahoma, among her grandmothers and aunts, Oden learned the lessons and lore of Potawatomi cooking along with those of her father's family, whose ancestors arrived on the Mayflower. The fusion of cultures came to fruition when Oden opened her famous restaurant the Corn Dance Café, where many dishes in this book had their debut. The book tells the story of Oden's journey and the dishes she created along the way. Alongside the recipes, Oden offers edifying observations about ingredients and cooking culture. Oden is an Emmy Award-winning Native American chef. She resides in Oklahoma City. Dooley is a James Beard Award-winning food journalist, and the author of eight books. She lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

OTIS W. LEADER: THE IDEAL AMERICAN DOUGHBOY

BY **Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer** **Chickasaw Press**

Sawyer examines the life of war hero Otis W. Leader, a thirty-five-year-old widower of Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cherokee, and Irish descent, who joined the United States Army after he was accused of being a German spy. Sawyer contends Leader enlisted to redeem his reputation and protect his country. During his time at war, he completed daring acts of heroism that earned him such honors as the Croix de Guerre, two Silver Stars, a Congressional Gold Medal, and a Purple Heart. Moreover, he was selected among a crowd of soldiers to represent the "Ideal American Doughboy." Sawyer is a story archeologist, who digs up shards of past lives, hopes, and truths, and pieces them together for readers today. She is the author of *Anumpa Warrior: Choctaw Code Talkers of World War I*. She lives in Canton, Texas.

URBAN HOMELANDS: WRITING THE NATIVE CITY FROM OKLAHOMA

BY **Lindsey Claire Smith** **University of Nebraska Press**

Smith argues Oklahoma is bound to both the South and Southwest and their legacies of conquest and Indigenous survivance. At the same time, mobility, ingenuity, cultural exchange, and creative expression, which are all part of the urbanization experience, have been fundamental to Native Americans who call Oklahoma home. Smith examines the Indigenous art and culture of Tulsa, New Orleans, and Santa Fe, relying heavily on the works of Native American writers Joy Harjo

and Lynn Riggs as well as filmmaker Sterlin Harjo. By focusing on the mobility between urban Native spaces, the author shows how the vibrant art scene in Tulsa has influenced artists in Indigenous homelands far removed from Oklahoma. Smith contends that by telling stories through fiction, visual art, and other media, Native American artists claim these cities as their homelands. Smith is the author of *Indians, Environment, and Identity on the Border of American Literature*. She resides in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

OKLAHOMA FREEDMEN OF THE FIVE TRIBES

BY **Angela Y. Walton-Raji**

The History Press

In this collection of stories told by descendants from all five tribes, Walton-Raji has provided an excellent history of Oklahoma Freedmen. These were Black people, both enslaved and free, who had been living among the Indian Nations. After the abolition of slavery in 1866, they forged an identity as their own people as they faced challenges of the western frontier. By 1906, before Oklahoma statehood, more than 20,000 people had been classified as "Freedmen" from the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole nations. The author dedicates this book to the 20,000 men, women, and children who struggle to find their place and make their mark on the soil that became Oklahoma. Walton-Raji, a descendant of Choctaw Freedmen, is a genealogy specialist, whose talents have been recognized by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. She lives in Catonsville, Maryland.



DESIGN / ILLUSTRATION / PHOTOGRAPHY
FINALISTS

TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY: A LEGACY OF INNOVATION, INTEGRATION, INSPIRATION 1992-2021

DESIGNED BY **Carl Brune**

Babylon Press

Brune has designed another breathtaking book that chronicles the past thirty years of the Tulsa City-County Library. The photographs help tell the story of this library's triumphs, its challenges, its invaluable service to its community, and most of all, its strong connection with their people. The images are clear, sharp, and placed appropriately throughout the book. The chapter headings appear in color and offer a contrast to the black text on glossy white pages. The majority of the text is not set in columns, but runs across the entire page, buttressed by two-inch side margins, making it a pleasant read.

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DESIGN / ILLUSTRATION / PHOTOGRAPHY
FINALISTS (CONTINUED)

THE FLORENTINE POET

COVER AND JACKET DESIGN BY **Carl Brune**

Babylon Books

INTERIOR DESIGN BY **William Bernhardt**

ILLUSTRATED BY **Brian Call**

This exquisitely designed and illustrated book serves as a reflection of the author's love letter to poetry, words, and writing. Everything about this book is appealing. The book comes in an elegant blue case. Both the case and the hardback cover feature the book's title in engraved gold lettering. The delightful illustrations located throughout the book bring to life the main character, Pietro Begnini's quest to marry his beloved Sophia and become a poet. Bernhardt is the author of more than sixty books. He twice won the Oklahoma Book Award for 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. Brune won the Oklahoma Book Award for design for *Woven Worlds: Basketry from the Clark Field Collection* (2002); *OKC: Second Time Around* (2007); and *Oklahoma: A Portrait of America* (2008). He lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Call is an illustrator and serves as an instructor at Brigham Young University-Idaho. He lives in Ammon, Idaho.

OTIS W. LEADER: THE IDEAL AMERICAN DOUGHBOY

DESIGNED BY **Jackson Davis**

Chickasaw Press

Davis provides the reader an appealing design that features a clean, precise layout with straight, even margins. An easy-to-read color map appears at the front of the book for reference. The chapter headings are uniform, each with a postmark showcasing a particular date, year, and location that highlights Leader's travel during the war. Images appear in the back section of the book entitled "Reconstructing the Life of an American War Hero." These images include photographs of Leader before, during, and after the war, as well as newspaper clippings, Leader's journal, and correspondence letters. A two-page color layout of Leader's military medals are also included. Davis has been employed with the Chickasaw Nation as a senior graphic artist since 2022.



DESIGN / ILLUSTRATION / PHOTOGRAPHY
FINALISTS (CONTINUED)

CHIKASHA CHAHTA OKLA'AT WIHAT TANÓWATTOOK THE MIGRATION STORY OF THE CHICKASAW AND CHOCTAW PEOPLE

DESIGNED BY **Jackson Davis**

White Dog Press

ILLUSTRATED BY **Lauren John**

This beautifully designed book features colorful illustrations that guide the reader to follow the journey of two brothers Chiksa' and Chahta as they search for the sacred migration story of the Chickasaw and Choctaw people. Published in both hardback and paperback, individuals can read through a traditional Chickasaw story in English, flip the book upside down, and read it again in the Chickasaw language. John is a Chickasaw citizen, currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in animation at Savannah College of Art and Design. Davis holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Savannah College of Art and Design. He resides in Ada, Oklahoma.

SOMEDAY, SOMEWHERE: PHOTOGRAPHS & POEMS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **David Jennings**

Wipf and Stock Publishers

Jennings has put together a heartwarming compilation of sixty-eight pairs of original photographs and poems. He utilizes both black and white and color images. Each photograph is presented along with a poem written for and inspired by the photograph. The images express the common theme running throughout his poetry, which explores various aspects of the human condition, such as love and loss, belief and doubt, joy and sadness. Jennings is a physical medicine and rehabilitation physician, amateur photographer, and poet. His first book *The Smallest Hint: Photographs and Poems* won the 2023 Oklahoma Book Award for photography. He lives in Broken Bow, Oklahoma.

GWEN DIDN'T CARE

ILLUSTRATED BY **Alex K. Wallace**

WF Publications

Wallace's illustrations showcase a day-in-the-life of Gwen, who is overjoyed to be going to the Oklahoma City Zoo but gets an unexpected lesson regarding Jim Crow legislation. Wallace takes a very serious subject matter and uses charming illustrations to help relay the reality of Oklahoma's segregated past to age-appropriate children. She uses vivid colors that remain balanced and harmonious throughout the book. These colorful images make the book come alive. Moreover, her animal drawings are warm and inviting, leaving the young reader captivated. Inspired by

her children's love for reading, writing and storytelling, Wallace recently rekindled her passion for the arts, and became an illustrator. She lives in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Wallace enjoys spending time with her husband and their two wonderful children, Sammy and Julia.



FICTION FINALISTS

DARK RIDE

BY **Lou Berney**

HarperCollins

Hardy "Hardly" Reed is a good-natured, usually stoned, twenty-one-year-old, who is drifting through life working as an amusement park ride operator. One day he notices two young children, alone on a bench. He sees both kids have injuries, and reports it to Child Protective Services, believing his responsibility is over. However, these two kids haunt him, and the more he investigates the situation, he begins to question the capability of CPS, an agency that is both understaffed and overworked. Hardly determines he will try and help these kids. He soon realizes he is in a dangerous situation. He learns the abusive father is also an attorney and runs a violent drug dealing operation. If Hardly continues to try and save these kids, they all could end up dead. Berney won the Oklahoma Book Award for fiction for his books *The Long and Faraway Gone* (2016) and *November Road* (2019). He lives in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

LISTEN

BY **Sheldon Russell**

Cynren Press

Lack of opportunities has forced Liam to take a job with the Federal Writers Project. He is assigned to collect stories of rural life for the Library of Congress in a hot, poverty-stricken Dust Bowl town in Oklahoma. He soon interviews Eden Sawyer, a talented, hardworking and determined woman who dreams of becoming an artist. Eden leads Liam to an unexpected, unimagined love. But as he interviews more townspeople, Liam's probing questions steer him into danger, threatening to reveal untold secrets, unsolved mysteries, and unfulfilled passions. Will one man's simmering jealousy and thwarted ambition bring Liam and Eden's story to an abrupt and deadly end? Russell has twice won an Oklahoma Book Award for fiction for *Dreams to Dust: A Tale of the Oklahoma Land Rush* (2007) and *The Bridge Troll Murders* (2018). The Oklahoma Center for the Book honored him with the distinguished Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award in 2023. Russell and his wife, Nancy, reside in Waynoka, Oklahoma.



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For 50 years, Full Circle Bookstore has loomed large as a literary institution in central Oklahoma.

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For news about author appearances, live music, trivia nights, and story time, follow us on social media.





FICTION FINALISTS (CONTINUED)

THE RADCLIFFE LADIES' READING CLUB

BY **Julia Bryan Thomas**

Sourcebooks

Massachusetts, 1955. With bags packed alongside her heavy heart, Alice Campbell escaped halfway across the country and found herself in front of a derelict building tucked among the cobblestone streets of Cambridge. She turns it into the enchanting bookshop of her dreams, knowing firsthand the power of books to comfort the brokenhearted. The Cambridge Bookshop soon becomes a haven for Tess, Caroline, Evie, and Merritt, who are all navigating the struggles of being newly independent college women in a world that seems to want to keep them in the kitchen. But when a member of the group finds herself shattered, everything they know about themselves will be called into question. Thomas's book *For Those Who Are Lost* was an Oklahoma Book Award finalist in fiction for 2023 and was selected that same year for the National Book Festival's Great Reads from Great Places program. She and her husband Will, live in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

HEART OF THE NILE

BY **Will Thomas**

Macmillan Publishers

This is the most dangerous case inquiry agents Cyrus Barker and Thomas Llewelyn have faced. On Boxing Day 1893, Phillip Addison, a volunteer at the British Museum, is cataloguing the mummies in the Egyptian archives when he makes a startling discovery. A mummy believed to be of no significance may well be the greatest find of the century. Addison discovers there is a giant ruby in the shape of a heart buried in the chest of the mummified corpse, and he is determined to find a safe place to protect the ruby until its discovery can be revealed. However, when he failed to return home that night, his wife contacts Barker & Llewelyn. Their investigation reveals the mummy Addison was cataloguing is perhaps the Cleopatra. They soon track down the ruby, but their missing persons case turns into a murder investigation when Addison's body is found floating in the Thames. With so many questions to be answered, the agents find themselves in the crosshairs, as they evade a violent street gang, a ruthless collector, and the British Museum itself as they try to solve the mystery. Thomas won the Oklahoma Book Award for fiction for *Some Danger Involved* (2005) and *Fatal Inquiry* (2015).

STEALING

BY **Margaret Verble**

HarperCollins

Kit Crockett lives on a farm with her grief-stricken widowed father. One day Kit discovers a mysterious and beautiful woman has moved in just down the road. Kit and the newcomer Bella become friends, and lonely Kit draws comfort from her. When a malicious neighbor finds out, Kit suddenly finds herself at the center of a tragic, fatal crime, and becomes a ward of the state. She is sent to a religious boarding school, where her heritage is attacked, and she becomes a victim of abuse. Keeping a secret journal allows her to record her memories and slowly she unravels the truth of how she ended up at the school. As Kit plots her freedom, the question becomes, can her plan work in time? Verble is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. Her books include *Maud's Line*, *Cherokee America*, and *When Two Feathers Fell from the Sky*. She lives in Lexington, Kentucky.



CHILDREN / YOUNG ADULT
FINALISTS

THIS INDIAN KID: A NATIVE AMERICAN MEMOIR

BY **Eddie Chuculate**

Scholastic Inc.

Growing up impoverished, shuttled between different households, and attending fourteen schools in nine years, Eddie Chuculate seemed bound to follow a certain path in life. Despite the hurdles he faced, however, Eddie's upbringing was rich with love and bountiful gifts from his Creek and Cherokee heritage—deep rooted traditions he embraced even as he learned to live within the culture of white, small-town America that dominated his migratory childhood. In gorgeously spare and unflinching prose, Chuculate recalls his childhood and adolescence—the beautiful aspects, like his deep connection to the land and nature in his home state of Oklahoma and his loving relationship with his grandparents. He also probes what it means to be Native American in modern-day America. Moreover, he reminds readers that one's path is rarely set in stone, and there is always hope. A native of Muskogee, Oklahoma, Chuculate currently resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

BENITA AND THE NIGHT CREATURES

BY **Mariana Llanos**

Barefoot Books

Benita loves to read, especially at night when she is in bed. In fact, nothing comes between Benita and her beloved books, not even scary night creatures Cuco, Tunche, and Supay. These night creatures can be annoying as they boo, screech, whistle, and yowl trying to scare her. When Supay wailed causing the night to become pitch black, Benita couldn't take it anymore. "Can't you all be quiet? Don't you see I am reading a book?" Confused the night creatures inquire, "What's a book?" Benita begins to read them stories, and soon the three-night creatures love reading too. Come along for this wonderful tale that extols the joy of reading. Llanos won the Oklahoma Book Award for children in 2022 for her book *Run, Little Chaski! An Inka Trail Adventure*, which was also selected that year for the National Book Festival's Great Reads from Great Places program. Llanos lives in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

GWEN DIDN'T CARE

BY **Gwendolyn F. Mukes**

WF Publications

Gwen didn't care that she had yucky, lumpy porridge for breakfast; or the fact that her legs were dirty; or that her mama fussed at her while combing her hair. Gwen was too excited! She was going to the Oklahoma City Zoo. But when she got to the zoo, she had to use a different entrance gate, restroom, and water fountain. She couldn't even eat at the zoo diner. Her mom said it was because of "Old Jim Crow." Gwen wanted to know who was this person called "Old Jim Crow," and what did he look like. Even the animals got involved trying to figure out who was this crow named Jim. When Gwen learns the truth, she began to wonder what the world would look like if Jim Crow disappeared. Gwen found out that she really did care! In 1958 Mukes along with twelve other youths and their advisor, Mrs. Clara Luper, changed the course of history with the first Sit-In Movement in Oklahoma City. Mukes later became a revered educator. She now splits her time between California and Oklahoma.

ALL KINDS OF SPECIAL

BY **Tammi Sauer**

Simon & Schuster

In this heartwarming story, Mia and her mom have a new house. Their house has a big yard with a mango tree. Every morning Mia looks out her window to see if a mango is on the tree. One day she finds the tree has produced one mango. This is not just any mango. This is a special mango because it belongs to Mia and her mom. Now, Mia must wait as the mango ripens, until finally she gets to eat the delicious treat. Eventually, the tree produces more and



CHILDREN / YOUNG ADULT FINALISTS (CONTINUED)

more mangos, and now they have too many mangos. What will they do with all this fruit? Mia realizes something this good needs to be shared, and this becomes the start of “all kinds of special.” Sauer is a four-time Oklahoma Book Award winner for her children’s books: *Chicken Dance* (2010); *Mostly Monsterly* (2011); *Nugget & Fang* (2014); and *Mary Had a Little Plan* (2023). She resides in Edmond, Oklahoma.

MASCOT

BY **Traci Sorell**

Charlesbridge Publishing

In Rye, Virginia, an eighth-grade English teacher creates an assignment for her class to debate whether Rye’s mascot should stay or change. Now six middle schoolers get involved in the issue that already has the suburb turned upside down with everyone choosing sides. At the center of this story about human rights and Native sovereignty, there are six young people: Callie, a Black Cherokee Nation citizen; Franklin who loves football but is not interested in learning about his Black heritage; Priya, a want-to-be journalist whose four grandparents were born in India; Sean is of Irish descent, whose family needs help from the food pantry; Tessa, a white, homeschooled student whose grandparent marched with MLK Jr.; and Luis who immigrated from El Salvador. Written from several viewpoints, this novel inquires, “What happens when a mascot is seen as racist, but not by everyone?” Sorell’s books include *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga* and *We Are Still Here! Native American Truths Everyone Should Know*. She lives in Wagoner, Oklahoma.

DR. CLARA SUE KIDWELL: TEACHER AND MENTOR

BY **Celia Stall-Meadows**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

This is the first book in the new series “Choctaw Culture Keepers.” Stall-Meadows tells the story of Dr. Clara Sue Kidwell, a Choctaw tribal member who became a renown educator and researcher, who specialized in American Indian history and culture. The author traces Kidwell’s life from her birth and adolescent years in Oklahoma, through her college years and professional career. Having earned a master’s and doctorate degree in the history of science from the University of Oklahoma, Kidwell embarked on a notable teaching career serving on faculties at Haskell Indian Jr. College; University of Minnesota, Twin Cities; University of California, Berkeley; University of Oklahoma; and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Although she enjoyed a distinguished career as an educator and published scholar, Kidwell also considered herself a mentor to college students. The author concludes by describing Kidwell’s life in her “Golden Years.” Stall-Meadows’ books include *Stories by Choctaw Women*.



LeAnne Howe

Author | Playwright | Scholar | Poet

2024 **ARRELL GIBSON**

Lifetime Achievement
AWARD RECIPIENT

Born in Edmond, Oklahoma, Howe is a citizen of the Choctaw Nation. She attended Oklahoma State University where she earned a bachelor's degree in English, and she holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing from Vermont College of Norwich University. Howe is an author, playwright, scholar, and poet. She currently serves as Eidson Distinguished Professor at the University of Georgia, where she connects literature, Indigenous knowledge, Native histories, and expressive cultures in her work. Her scholarly writings include Native and Indigenous literatures, performance studies, film, and Indigeneity.

Howe's books include *Shell Shaker* (2001); *Evidence of Red: Poems and Prose* (2005); *Miko Kings: An Indian Baseball Story* (2007); *Seeing Red—Hollywood's Pixeled Skins, American Indians and Film* (2013); *Choctalking on Other Realities* (2013); and *Savage Conversations* (2019). Her plays include *The Big PowWow* (1987); *Indian Radio Days* (1998); and *The Mascot Opera* (2008). Moreover, her film credits include co-editor on *Seeing Red—Hollywood's Pixeled Skins: American Indians and Film*; co-producer on *Playing Pastime: American Indian Fast-Pitch Softball and Survival*; and screenwriter and on-camera narrator for *Indian Country Diaries: Spiral of Fire*.

Howe is the recipient of the 2022 Richard Beale Davis Award for Distinguished Lifetime Service to Southern Letters by the Society for the Study of Southern Literature; a United States Artists (USA) Ford Fellow, Lifetime Achievement Award by the Native Writers' Circle of the Americas, American Book Award, Oklahoma Book Award, and she was a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar to Jordan. In October 2015, Howe received the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Western Literature Association, (WLA); and in 2014 she received the Modern Languages Association Inaugural Prize for Studies in Native American Literatures, Cultures, and Languages for *Choctalking on Other Realities*. She shares a Native and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) award for literary criticism with eleven other scholars for *Reasoning Together: The Native Critics Collective*, named one of the ten most influential books of the first decade of the twenty-first century for indigenous scholarship, (2011). Howe has lectured nationally and internationally throughout the United Kingdom, Europe, and Japan.

THE ARRELL GIBSON LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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



Previous Award Winners and Special Recognition

Children/Young Adult

- 1990 **Helen Roney Sattler** • *Tyrannosaurus Rex and Its Kin*
- 1991 **Stan Hoig** • *A Capital for the Nation*
- 1992 **Jess** and **Bonnie Speer** • *Hillback to Boggy*
- 1993 **Anna Myers** • *Red Dirt Jessie*
- 1994 **Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith** • *Cherokee Summer*
- 1995 **Russell G. Davis** and **Brent Ashabranner** • *The Choctaw Code*
- 1996 **Anna Myers** • *Graveyard Girl*
- 1997 **Barbara Snow Gilbert** • *Stone Water*
- 1998 **S. L. Rottman** • *Hero*
- 1999 **Barbara Snow Gilbert** • *Broken Chords*
- 2000 **Harold Keith** • *Brief Garland: Ponytails, Basketball, and Nothing But Net*
- 2001 **Joyce Carol Thomas** • *Hush Songs*
- 2002 **Molly Levite Griffis** • *The Rachel Resistance*
- 2003 **Darleen Bailey Beard** • *The Babbs Switch Story*
- 2004 Children **Una Belle Townsend** • *Grady's in the Silo* * Young Adult **Sharon Darrow** • *The Painters of Lexieville*
- 2005 Children **Joyce Carol Thomas** • *The Gospel Cinderella* * Young Adult **Molly Levite Griffis** • *Simon Says*
- 2006 **Anna Myers** • *Assassin*
- 2007 Children **Tim Tingle** • *Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship and Freedom* * Young Adult **Tim Tharp** • *Knights of the Hill Country*
- 2008 Children **Devin Scillian** • *Pappy's Handkerchief* * Young Adult **P.C. Cast** and **Kristin Cast** • *Marked: A House of Night Novel*
- 2009 **Anna Myers** • *Spy*
- 2010 Children **Tammi Sauer** • *Chicken Dance* * Young Adult **George Edward Stanley** • *Night Fires*
- 2011 Children **Tammi Sauer** • *Mostly Monsterly* * Young Adult **M.J. Alexander** • *Portrait of a Generation: The Children of Oklahoma*
- 2012 Children **Glenda Galvan** • *Chikasha Stories, Volume One: Shared Spirit* * Young Adult **Sonia Gensler** • *The Revenant*
- 2013 Children **Frank Keating** • *George: George Washington Our Founding Father* * Young Adult **M. Scott Carter** • *The Immortal Von B.*
- 2014 Children **Tammi Sauer** • *Nugget & Fang* * Young Adult **Tim Tharp** • *MOJO*
- 2015 Children **Greg Rodgers** • *Chukfi Rabbit's Big, Bad Bellyache: A Trickster Tale* * Young Adult **Roy Deering** • *Finders Keepers*
- 2016 Children **Cynthia Liu** • *Bike on, Bear!* * Young Adult **Alton Carter** • *The Boy Who Carried Bricks*
- 2017 Children **Jane McKellips** • *Dust Storm* * Young Adult **Lucricia 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*
- 2023 Children **Tammi Sauer** • *Mary Had a Little Plan* * Young Adult **Nikki Shannon Smith** • *Lena and the Burning of Greenwood: A Tulsa Race Massacre Survival Story*

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'*
- 2023 **Design Gentry Chapman, Skip McKinstry, and Wiley Barnes** • *Capital City: History of Tishomingo* * **Illustration Jeannine Bulleigh** • *Save-It-Forward Suppers: A Simple Strategy to Save Time, Money and Sanity* * **Photography David Jennings** • *The Smallest Hint: Photographs and Poems*

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** • *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*
 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*
 2023 **Mary Anna Evans** • *The Physicist's Daughter*

Non-Fiction

- 1990 **Leonard Leff** • *Hitchcock & Selznick*
 1991 **Carl Albert** and **Danney Goble** • *Little Giant*
 1992 **David Morgan, Robert England,** and **George Humphreys** • *Oklahoma Politics & Policies: Governing the Sooner State*
 1993 **Henry Bellmon** and **Pat Bellmon** • *The Life and Times of Henry Bellmon*; and **Daniel Boorstin** • *The Creators*
 1994 **J. Brent Clark** • *3rd Down and Forever*
 1995 **Dennis McAuliffe Jr.** • *The Deaths of Sybil Bolton*
 1996 **William Paul Winchester** • *A Very Small Farm*
 1997 **Annick Smith** • *Big Bluestem: A Journey Into the Tall Grass*
 1998 **John Hope Franklin** and **John Whittington Franklin**, Editors • *My Life and an Era: The Autobiography of Buck Colbert Franklin*
 1999 **Bob Burke** • *From Oklahoma to Eternity: The Life of Wiley Post and the Winnie Mae*
 2000 **Michael Wallis** • *The Real Wild West: The 101 Ranch and the Creation of the American West*
 2001 **David LaVere** • *Contrary Neighbors: Southern Plains and Removed Indians in Indian Territory*
 2002 **Lydia L. Wyckoff**, Editor • *Woven Worlds: Basketry from the Clark Field Collection*
 2003 **Michael A. Mares** • *A Desert Calling: Life in a Forbidding Landscape*
 2004 **Eric R. Pianka** and **Laurie J. Vitt** • *Lizards: Windows to the Evolution of Diversity*
 2005 **Ed Cray** • *Ramblin' Man: The Life and Times of Woody Guthrie*
 2006 **Timothy Egan** • *The Worst Hard Time*
 2007 **Charles Robert Goins** and **Danney Goble** • *Historical Atlas of Oklahoma, Fourth Edition*
 2008 **Nancy Isenberg** • *Fallen Founder: The Life of Aaron Burr*
 2009 **Linda Peavy** and **Ursula Smith** • *Full Court Quest: The Girls from Shaw Indian School, Basketball Champions of the World*
 2010 **Randy Ramer, Carole Klein, Kimberly Roblin, Eric Singleton, Anne Morand, Gary Moore,** and **April Miller** • *Thomas Gilcrease*

- 2011 **S. C. Gwynne** • *Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History*
 2012 **Daniel Blake Smith** • *An American Betrayal: Cherokee Patriots and the Trail of Tears*
 2013 **W.K. Stratton** • *Floyd Patterson: The Fighting Life of Boxing's Invisible Champion*
 2014 **Mary Jane Warde** • *When the Wolf Came: The Civil War and the Indian Territory*
 2015 **Cheryl Elizabeth Brown Wattley** • *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*
 2023 **Tracy Daugherty** • *The Land and the Days: A Memoir of Family, Friendship, and Grief*

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 **Carolyne Wright** • *Seasons of Mangoes and Brainfire*
 2002 **Ivy Dempsey** • *The Scent of Water: New and Selected Poems*
 2003 **Joy Harjo** • *How We Became Human: New and Selected Poems*
 2004 **Laura Apol** • *Crossing the Ladder of Sun*
 2005 **Francine Ringold** • *Still Dancing*
 2006 **Leanne Howe** • *Evidence of Red*
 2007 **Carl Sennhenn** • *Travels Through Enchanted Woods*

- 2008 **Sandra Soli** • *What Trees Know*
 2009 **Nathan Brown** • *Two Tables Over*
 2010 **Jeanetta Calhoun Mish** • *Work is Love Made Visible: Poetry and Family Photographs*
 2011 **Benjamin Myers** • *Elegy for Trains*
 2012 **Joe Dale Tate Nevaquaya** • *Leaving Holes & Selected New Writings*
 2013 **Carl Sennhenn** • *Nocturnes and Sometimes, Even I*
 2014 **Yvonne Carpenter, Nancy Goodwin, Catherine McCraw, Clynell Reinschmiedt, and Carol Waters** • *Red Dirt Roads*
 2015 **Jessica Isaacs** • *Deep August*
 2016 **Loren Graham** • *Places I Was Dreaming*
 2017 **Sly Alley** • *Strong Medicine*
 2018 **Ron Wallace** • *Renegade (and Other Poems)*
 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*
 2023 **Mary B. Gray** • *Who Do You Think You Are?*

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
 2022 **Jim Stovall**—author, motivational speaker, and movie producer—Tulsa
 2023 **Sheldon Russell**—author and former educator

Ralph Ellison Award

- 1995 **Ralph Ellison**—National Book Award winner—Oklahoma City
 1997 **Angie Debo**—“First Lady of Oklahoma History”—Marshall
 1999 **Melvin Tolson**—poet, journalist, and dramatist—Langston
 2000 **Jim Thompson**—novelist and screenwriter—Anadarko
 2002 **John Berryman**—poet, biographer, and editor—McAlester
 2004 **Lynn Riggs**—playwright and screenwriter—Claremore
 2005 **Woody Guthrie**—author, illustrator, and songwriter—Okemah
 2006 **John Joseph Mathews**—Osage novelist and historian—Pawhuska
 2007 **Muriel Wright**—acclaimed Oklahoma historian—Oklahoma City

- 2008 **Danney Glenn Goble**—acclaimed Oklahoma historian—Tulsa
- 2010 **Stan Hoig**—author, journalist, and historian—Edmond
- 2013 **Alexander Lawrence Posey**, poet, journalist, and essayist—Eufaula
- 2016 **Dr. H. Wayne Morgan**, author and historian—Norman
- 2017 **Ralph Marsh**, newspaperman, award-winning magazine writer, and author—Okemah
- 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*
- 2023 **Jeanetta Calhoun Mish** • *The Collected Poems of Josie Craig Berry*

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
- Steven Baker**, Oklahoma City 2019–2023



DUBLIN LITERARY AWARD

The Oklahoma Center for the Book continued its involvement in the Dublin Literary Award. The Center nominated Oklahoma author Lara Bernhardt's book *Red Rain* for the prestigious award in 2023.



MY FAVORITE BOOK

The Oklahoma Center for the Book continued the My Favorite Book writing contest for students in grades four through twelve. The Center and its partners started the competition following the demise of the national Letters About Literature initiative. The 2023-2024 academic year had 653 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 was held May 1, 2024, 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/my-fav-book](https://oklahoma.gov/libraries/my-fav-book).

NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

The Center participated in the 2023 National Book Festival in Washington, D.C. The Center selected Oklahoma children's author Tammi Sauer for her book *Mary Had a Little Plan* and Julia Bryan Thomas's book *For Those Who Are Lost* for the National Book Festival's "Roadmap to Reading: Great Reads from Great Places" program. The books were represented at the Oklahoma booth in the Great Hall and were on sale at the festival's bookstore.



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 oklahoma.gov/libraries/okauthors! 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? Look for the author update form on the landing page.



READ ACROSS OKLAHOMA

The Center partnered with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries Literacy Office to present the annual Read Across Oklahoma. The beloved preschool and early-grade literacy event was held Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at the Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden. Over 1,500 free books were distributed to children at the event. The event featured Oklahoma author and illustrator Kylan Mogg who read his book *The Forgetful Elephant*.

**Friends of the
OKLAHOMA**

CENTER FOR THE BOOK



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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CENTER FOR THE BOOK

WISHES TO THANK

Our Judges

The Oklahoma Center for the Book wishes to acknowledge the tremendous contribution of the Oklahoma Book Award judges. There are five judges selected for each category, and they represent a geographical, cultural, educational, ethnic, occupation and racial diversity. The one thing each judge has in common is their love for books and reading.

THE CENTER ACKNOWLEDGES THE

Generous Contributions

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