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42nd ANNUAL NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BOOK AWARDS

2023 Winners & Fred Cody Award for Lifetime Achievement Announced

Northern California's vibrant literary scene was celebrated **Saturday, September 30, 2023, 2:00**, at **Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Main Library, Civic Center, San Francisco**, when the **42nd annual Northern California Book Awards** recognized published works of 2022 by Northern California authors and California translators, presented by **Northern California Book Reviewers, Poetry Flash**, and the **San Francisco Public Library**, with our community partners **Mechanics' Institute Library** and **Women's National Book Association-San Francisco Chapter**. A **reception** at the library followed the ceremony. The event is free and open to the public.

Winning authors accepted their awards and briefly presented their books. **The Booksmith**, a San Francisco bookstore, provided nominated and honored books for sale and signing.

The **NCBR Recognition Award** went to ***Illustrated Black History*** by George McCalman. The Award honors a book or literary project that fall outside of NCBA categories. The **California Translation Awards in Poetry and Prose** honored works of translation by translators who live anywhere in California.

The **Fred Cody Award for Lifetime Achievement & Service** was presented to **Brenda Hillman**, Bay Area poet, writer, editor, activist, and educator. She is co-founder of the MFA in Creative Writing Program at Saint Mary's College of California, where she is Professor Emerita, and the author of eleven collections of poetry, most recently *In a Few Minutes Before Later*, Wesleyan University Press, 2022, as well as chapbooks, edited works, and translations. She is Chancellor Emerita of the Academy of American Poets and on the annual summer faculty at Community of Writers in Olympic Valley, Northern California.

Northern California reviewers and editors, members of **Northern California Book Reviewers**, select the awards. Membership is open to all eligible Northern California reviewers and editors. All of the nominated books, the NCBR Recommended Reading List, were acknowledged and celebrated at the ceremony. Judges' statements by Northern California Book Reviewers will be posted on the NCBA page at Poetryflash.org.

FRED CODY AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT & SERVICE

Brenda Hillman

Poet, educator, and activist, *In a Few Minutes Before Later*, Wesleyan University Press

NCBR GROUNDBREAKER AWARD

Litquake, accepted by Norah Piehl, Executive Director

NCBR RECOGNITION AWARD

Illustrated Black History: Honoring the Iconic and the Unseen, George McCalman, HarperOne

The categories are: Fiction, Poetry, Creative Nonfiction, General Nonfiction, Translation, and Children’s Literature. See Poetryflash.org for more information.

The winners are:

Poetry Award

Customs: Poems, Solmaz Sharif, Graywolf Press

Fiction Award

Nightcrawling, Leila Mottley, Knopf

Creative Nonfiction Award

Year of the Tiger: An Activist’s Life, Alice Wong, Vintage

General Nonfiction Award

Listen, World! How the Intrepid Elsie Robinson Became America’s Most-Read Woman, Julia Scheeres and Allison Gilbert, Seal Press

California Translation in Poetry

A Summer Day in the Company of Ghosts, Wang Yin, translated from Chinese by Andrea Lingenfelter, NYRB Poets

California Translation in Prose

The Performance, Claudia Petrucci, translated from Italian by Anne Milano Appel, World Editions

Children’s Literature - Younger Readers

Ablaze with Color: A Story of Painter Alma Thomas, Jeanne Walker Harvey, illustrated by Loveis Wise, HarperCollins

Children’s Literature - Middle Grade

Undercover Latina, Aya de León, Candlewick Press

Children’s Literature - Young Adult

All My Rage, Sabaa Tahir, Razorbill

NOMINEES:

POETRY

Martian: The Saint of Loneliness, James Cagney, Nomadic Press

Of Mineral, Tiff Dressen, Nightboat Books

Customs: Poems, Solmaz Sharif, Graywolf Press (WINNER)

Open Pit, Jose Antonio Villarán, Counterpath Press

As She Appears, Shelley Wong, YesYes Books

FICTION

If I Survive You, Jonathan Escoffery, MCD

Forbidden City, Vanessa Hua, Ballantine Books

Divine Madness, Lynne Kaufman, Tailwinds Press

What We Fed to the Manticore, Talia Lakshmi Kolluri, Tin House

Nightcrawling, Leila Mottley, Knopf (WINNER)

CREATIVE NONFICTION

Spy Daughter, Queer Girl: In Search of Truth and Acceptance in a Family of Secrets, Leslie Absher, Latah Press

How to Read Now: Essays, Elaine Castillo, Viking

The Man Who Could Move Clouds: A Memoir, Ingrid Rojas Contreras, Doubleday

Creativity: Where Poems Begin, Mary Mackey, Marsh Hawk Press

Year of the Tiger: An Activist's Life, Alice Wong, Vintage (WINNER)

GENERAL NONFICTION

Captain of Her Soul: The Life of Marion Davies, Lara Gabrielle, University of California Press

American Midnight: The Great War, a Violent Peace, and Democracy's Forgotten Crisis, Adam Hochschild, Mariner Books

Wise Gals: The Spies Who Built the CIA and Changed the Future of Espionage, Nathalia Holt, G.P. Putnam's Sons

Listen, World!: How the Intrepid Elsie Robinson Became America's Most-Read Woman, Julia Scheeres and Allison Gilbert, Seal Press (WINNER)

Who Killed Jane Stanford?: A Gilded Age Tale of Murder, Deceit, Spirits and the Birth of a University, Richard White, W.W. Norton & Company

CALIFORNIA TRANSLATION

California Translation in Poetry

Fiat Lux, Paula Abramo, translated from the Spanish by Dick Cluster, Flowersong Press

It Must Be a Misunderstanding, Coral Bracho, translated from the Spanish by Forrest Gander, New Directions

A Summer Day in the Company of Ghosts, Wang Yin, translated from the Chinese by Andrea Lingenfelter, NYRB Poets (WINNER)

California Translation in Prose

The Old Woman with the Knife, Gu Byeong-mo, translated from the Korean by Chi-Young Kim, Hanover Square Press/HarperCollins

The Performance, Claudia Petrucci, translated from the Italian by Anne Milano Appel, World Editions (WINNER)

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Younger Readers

Ablaze with Color: A Story of Painter Alma Thomas, Jeanne Walker Harvey, illustrated by Loveis Wise, Harper (WINNER)

Eighteen Vats of Water, Ji-Li Jiang, illustrated by Nadia Hsieh, Creston Books

Listen to the Language of the Trees: A story of how forests communicate underground, Tera Kelley, illustrated by Marie Hermansson, Dawn Publications

Middle Grade

Undercover Latina, Aya de León, Candlewick Press (WINNER)

Wave, Diana Farid, illustrated by Kris Goto, Cameron Kids

Seen and Unseen: What Dorothea Lange, Toyo Miyatake, and Ansel Adams's Photographs Reveal About the Japanese American Incarceration, Elizabeth Partridge, illustrated by Lauren Tamaki, Chronicle Books

Young Adult

No Stopping Us Now, Lucy Jane Bledsoe, Three Rooms Press

Self-Made Boys, Anna-Marie McLemore, Feiwel & Friends

Mattie and the Machine, Lynn Ng Quezon, Santa Monica Press

All My Rage, Sabaa Tahir, Razorbill (WINNER)

History of the Northern California Book Awards

Since 1981, the Northern California Book Reviewers, a volunteer group of book reviewers and book review editors, have honored the work of Northern California authors. One of the group's founders was Fred Cody, proprietor of the famed independent bookstore in Berkeley. The NCBR created an award in his name to honor a lifetime of achievements and distinguished service to the literary community. The Fred Cody Award for lifetime achievement is presented every year to a member of the literary community. Previous recipients include Isabel Allende, Juan Felipe Herrera, Daniel Ellsberg, Sandra M. Gilbert, Jack Hirschman, Judy Grahn, Susan Griffin, Willis Barnstone, Adam Hochschild, Kay Ryan, Michael Pollan, Al Young, Andrew Hoyem, Diane di Prima, Orville Schell, Philip Levine, Ronald Takaki, Francisco X. Alarcón, Carolyn Kizer, Ishmael Reed, Maxine Hong Kingston, Robert Hass, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Malcolm Margolin, Adrienne Rich, Wallace Stegner, Kay Boyle, William Everson, Alice Walker, Gary Snyder, Jessica Mitford, Tillie Olsen, M.F.K. Fisher, Robert Duncan, Nancy J. Peters, and Tamim Ansary.

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