20 25



THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL



CELEBRATING BOOKS + AUTHORS

Oklahoma BOOK

THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL

AWARDS

CELEBRATING

Notable Books + Authors

Presented by







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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.

Order of Events

Children / Young Adult

Fiction

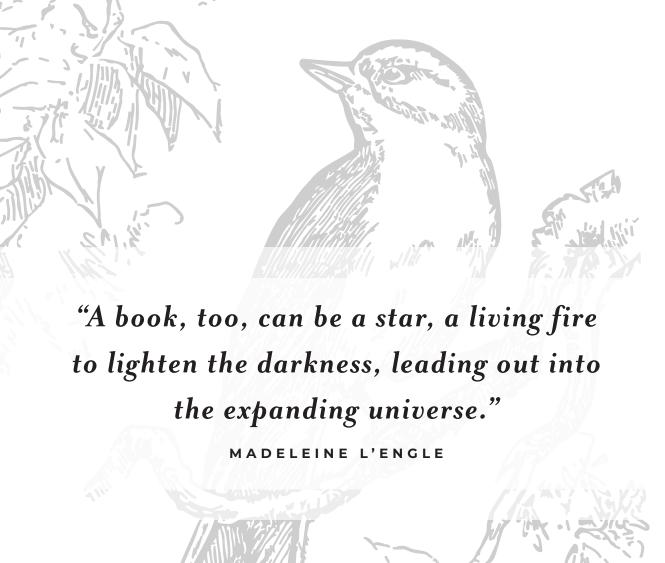
Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award

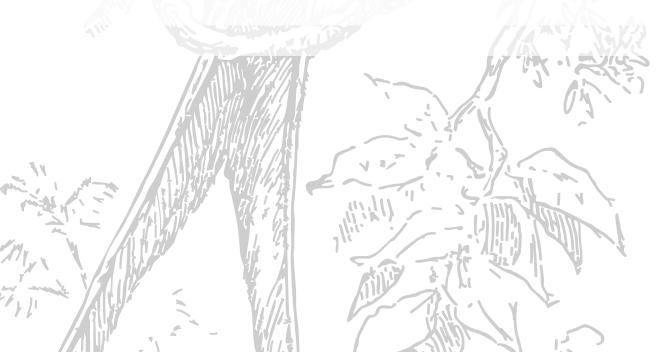
CLOSING REMARKS

Tonight's Winners

Please meet after 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.





Award Finalists

Poetry Finalists

CAUTERIZED

BY Laura Apol • Michigan State University Press

Cauterize: to burn or freeze the flesh around a wound to stop heavy bleeding. In her sixth full-length collection, award-winning poet Laura Apol returns to themes of loss that are, at least partly, cauterized: her struggles with a conservative religious upbringing, her mother's illness and death, children growing up and leaving home, losing her adult daughter to suicide, a worldwide pandemic, the casualties of age. These experiences lead the reader on a journey, throughout which natural imagery interweaves with personal loss. *Cauterized* grapples with the complexities of grief and healing over time. With startling honesty, empathy, and lyrical precision, Apol offers insight into the ways some wounds need cautery to begin to heal.

IN THE HOUSE IN THE WOODS

BY Roseanna Alice Boswell • Cooper Dillon Books

In the House in the Woods chronicles grief through forests, down highways, and across state lines, as the speaker remembers and reconstructs their own origin. Core to the poems is a longing for closeness: to the sister who died, and to the siblings who remain. "I will beat the dark this time," claims the poet, "but still watch for deer / along the side of the road." Even in hope, there is a certain wariness, something lurking among the trees. In the House in the Woods leads the way back up the horse path toward home, following the last bit of sun. With a distinctive voice and electrifying clarity, this collection explores how family ties transform in the face of loss.

THE FIRES OF HERACLITUS

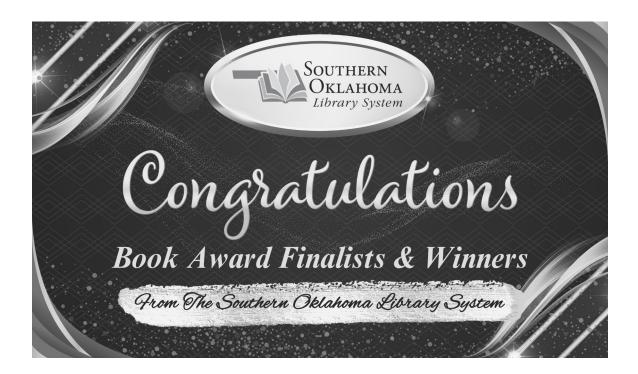
BY Paul Juhasz • Turning Plow Press

The poems in *The Fires of Heraclitus* run the gamut from funny, to acerbic, to heartbreaking. Within them, exes spend their last phone call quoting song lyrics, a father longs to play baseball with his son, Medusa roams the dating apps, and the Oklahoma sun flares as only it can. Here Paul Juhasz exposes a surprise of adulthood: that the drama of our lives often comes without fanfare but is instead dismaying, subversive, startling, and often quieter than we expected.

UNTIL AIR ITSELF IS TINTED

BY Cullen Whisenhunt • Turning Plow Press

In *Until Air Itself Is Tinted*, Cullen Whisenhunt approaches his poems with a photographer's keen eye, drawing into sharp focus details that often go overlooked. In this collection, Whisenhunt creates a rich poetic texture, interwoven with cranes and herons, leafy sidewalks and cypress trees. These are poems we can sink our teeth into, the rich imagery set against a vivid backdrop of birdsong and Oklahoma soul.



RABBIT DECOLONIZES THE FOREST:

Stories from the Euchee Reservation

BY Gregory H. Bigler • University of Oklahoma Press

Before their forced removal to Oklahoma in the 1830s, the Euchee people lived in the Southeast. Now enrolled in the Muscogee Nation, they maintain their distinct identity. In this vibrant collection, Euchee citizen Gregory H. Bigler blends traditional tales, personal stories, and legal insights to illuminate a community often overlooked. Written with warmth and humor, the stories feature unforgettable characters—both human and animal—and touch on everything from spiritual beliefs to legal injustice. Through them, Bigler honors the living culture of the Euchee people, foregrounding their traditions, history, and enduring presence.

MAMMALS OF OKLAHOMA: Second Edition

BY William Caire, Lynda Samanie Loucks, and Michelle L. Haynie University of Oklahoma Press

This book is a comprehensive, illustrated guide to the state's 117 known mammal species—including native, introduced, extirpated, and unverified species. Covering everything from opossums to bison, this updated second edition features full-color photos, identification keys, and distribution maps as well as detailed notes on life history and ecology. It explores habitats, food habits, reproduction, predators, and more. Featuring insights into scientific names and a helpful glossary of terms, this authoritative volume is ideal for both professional biologists and amateur naturalists. This field guide highlights the rich diversity of Oklahoma's mammalian wildlife.

RIDING LIKE THE WIND: The Life of Sanora Babb

BY Iris Jamahl Dunkle • University of California Press

In *Riding Like the Wind*, Iris Jamahl Dunkle explores the life and work of Sanora Babb, an extraordinary writer whose voice is currently being rediscovered. In 1939, John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* overshadowed Babb's own powerful novel about life during the Dust Bowl, despite her field notes and firsthand experiences being a major influence on Steinbeck's work. Dunkle traces this underrated author's journey from her

impoverished childhood in Colorado to her rise among California's literary elite, where she befriended figures like Ray Bradbury and Ralph Ellison. This biography underscores how lives previously overlooked by history can shape our understanding of the past.

RESISTING OKLAHOMA'S REIGN OF TERROR: The Society of Oklahoma Indians and the Fight for Native Rights, 1923-1928

BY Joshua Clough • Co-Publishers: University of Nebraska Press and American Philosophical Society

Joshua Clough's *Resisting Oklahoma's Reign of Terror* tells the powerful story of the Society of Oklahoma Indians, a grassroots coalition that emerged in response to a wave of violence and exploitation targeting Indigenous communities in the 1920s. This group came together in defense of First Nations sovereignty during a time of land theft, legal abuses, and political exclusion. Clough draws on rich archival material to characterize this Indigenous-led movement, offering a striking account of resistance.

THE STATE OF SEQUOYAH: Indigenous Sovereignty and the Quest for an Indian State

BY Donald L. Fixico · University of Oklahoma Press

In 1905, leaders of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee, and Seminole Nations united to propose a state governed by and for Indigenous people: Sequoyah. Though voters approved their constitution, Congress rejected the bid, opting instead for Oklahoma statehood in 1907. In *The State of Sequoyah*, Oklahoma historian Donald L. Fixico recounts this bold pursuit of Indigenous sovereignty and the forces—land runs, federal policy, political resistance—that opposed it. The movement's ideals lived on. Fixico connects this early history to recent affirmations of tribal sovereignty, including *McGirt v. Oklahoma*, leaving readers to consider: did this story end in 1907?

THE DEAF GIRL: A Memoir of Hearing Loss, Hope, and Fighting Against the Odds

BY Abigail Heringer • Sourcebooks

Abigail Heringer, an instant fan-favorite from season 25 of *The Bachelor*, was born deaf and faced unique challenges growing up. Throughout a journey marked by adversity, Abigail has grown into her own strongest advocate, discovering a new voice that is

fearless and empowered—a voice that enables her to proudly reclaim the title of "the deaf girl" she once resisted, rewriting it as a testament to her resilience and strength. Vulnerable and uplifting, *The Deaf Girl* shares Abigail's journey of navigating life with a profound hearing loss and her transformation from merely accepting her disability to embracing it wholeheartedly. This memoir serves as an inspiring reminder for anyone who has ever felt like an outsider or struggled to embrace their differences, showcasing that every voice is worthy of being heard.

WASHITA LOVE CHILD: The Rise of Indigenous Rock Star Jesse Ed Davis

BY Douglas K. Miller • W.W. Norton & Company

Jesse Ed Davis, one of the most sought-after guitarists of the 1960s and '70s, played alongside rock legends like John Lennon, Mick Jagger, B.B. King, and Bob Dylan. Known for his versatility, Davis contributed to countless top-ten albums, shaping rock music with soulful melodies and bright flourishes. An Indigenous artist from a time when few musicians from the First Nations were visible, Davis broke down barriers, providing career representation and inspiration for those who followed. *Washita Love Child* reconstructs his life through over a hundred interviews, traversing his collaborations with Lennon, his impact on rock history, and his tragic death.

BY THE FIRE WE CARRY: The Generations-Long Fight for Justice on Native Land

BY Rebecca Nagle · HarperCollins

Before 2020, the U.S. reserved more land for forests than for First Nations. *By the Fire We Carry* traces the generations-long fight for tribal land and sovereignty in eastern Oklahoma, culminating in the 2020 Supreme Court ruling that affirmed the continued existence of multiple reservations. Focusing on the Muscogee Nation, Nagle recounts forced removal, broken promises, and a death penalty case that challenged Oklahoma's jurisdiction. Blending contemporary legal action with centuries of Indigenous resistance, this powerful narrative reveals a history of exploitation and a struggle for justice that continues to shape the United States today. *By the Fire We Carry* stands as a landmark work of American history.

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LAST ONE WALKING: The Life of Cherokee Community Leader Charlie Soap

BY Greg Shaw • University of Oklahoma Press

The title Last One Walking alludes to a Cherokee wolf clan tradition in which one leader walked first and another kept watch, following the group from behind. The first woman to lead the Cherokee Nation, Wilma Mankiller, was that trailblazing leader. Her husband, Charlie Soap, took on the role of the last one walking. Last One Walking brings his story into focus. Drawing on interviews, travels, and family writings, Shaw recounts Soap's lifelong work in community organizing and water rights reform. Embodying the Cherokee value of ga-du-gi—working together for the common good—Soap served his Nation with unwavering commitment. This biography reveals the impact of a dynamic partnership between Mankiller and Soap.

Design / Illustration / Photography Finalists

FINDINGS: TRANSLATIONS HALLAZGOS: TRADUCCIONES

DESIGN BY Carl Brune • PHOTOS BY Jeanie Gooden • Peach Can Press

This vibrant composition explores the nature of inspiration. Framed by Carl Brune's thoughtful design work, Gooden's paintings interpret their source images, both reflecting what can be seen and adding innovative elements that transform the work. Phrases written in both Spanish and English echo throughout the book. Readers are invited to translate the visuals according to their own unique perspectives. This work is rhythmic and meditative: a masterful collaboration between two talented creators.

ECHOES OF LIGHT: Images into Writing

PHOTOS BY Sam Joyner • DESIGN BY Carl Brune • Twin Feathers Ink

Echoes of Light: Images into Writing is a captivating fusion of photography and prose. Featuring 45 black and white images by Sam Joyner, the book travels the globe—from Sicily to Bali—capturing striking scenes of architecture, nature, and people. Writer Steve Gerkin responds to each photo with creative nonfiction, historical nonfiction, flash fiction, poetry, or historical fiction, turning visual moments into literary reflections.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

ILLUSTRATIONS BY Paul Peart-Smith · Beacon Press

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz's groundbreaking *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* is powerfully reimagined through the vivid, full-color artwork of acclaimed illustrator Paul Peart-Smith. Peart-Smith brings this watershed book to life, centering the perspective of the peoples displaced by Europeans and their white descendants to trace Indigenous perseverance over four centuries against policies intended to obliterate them. This edition retains the voice and spirit of the original while broadening its impact to new audiences.

IMPRESARIOS OF THE RODEO ARENA: The Story of The Beutler Stock Contracting Legacy

DESIGN BY Julie Rushing • Oklahoma Hall of Fame Publishing

Filled with never-before-seen photographs and personal interviews, this book chronicles the rodeo legacy of the Beutler brothers—pioneers who shaped professional rodeo and built a five-generation dynasty in the world of livestock contracting. Readers will enjoy a blend of archival images and bold layouts that capture the history of Oklahoma rodeo. Designer Julie Rushing creates a seamless visual narrative that does this thrilling origin story justice.

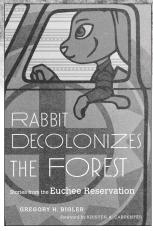
Fiction Finalists

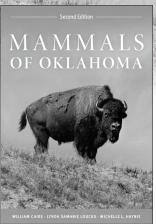
JUSTICE FOR ALL

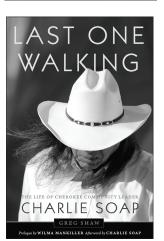
BY William Bernhardt • Babylon Books

In Justice for All, Florida defense attorney Daniel Pike takes on a high-stakes civil case: a comic book writer suing to reclaim rights to a billion-dollar character while living in poverty. His opponent is Kenzi Rivera, who represents a former flame with a competing claim. But when a severed head turns up at an airport, Pike realizes this is more than a legal dispute—it's deadly. As powerful forces close in, Pike must use every legal trick to survive a case tied to a dark conspiracy. William Bernhardt delivers a gripping courtroom thriller featuring characters from both his Daniel Pike and Splitsville series.









Rabbit Decolonizes the Forest Stories from the Euchee Reservation by Gregory H. Bigler Foreword by Kristen A. Carpenter

\$21.95 PAPERBACK 9780806193632

Mammals of Oklahoma

Second Edition

by William Caire, Lynda Loucks, and Michelle L Haynie

\$75.00 HARDCOVER 9780806193694

The State of Sequoyah Indigenous Sovereignty and the Quest for an Indian State by Donald L. Fixico

\$34.95 HARDCOVER 9780806194639

Last One Walking

The Life of Cherokee Community Leader Charlie Soap by Greg Shaw Prologue by Wilma Mankiller and Afterword by Charlie Soap

\$29.95 HARDCOVER 9780806194721



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AT FIRST I WAS AFRAID

BY Marty Ludlum · Babylon Books

Meet Detective Donna Summer Wyznecki of Las Vegas—named after the disco queen by her disco-obsessed dad. Her love life's a mess, her best friend just got engaged, and now a bomber calling himself The Messenger is terrorizing the city. With chaos threatening the tourist capital, Donna and her quirky crew—the Disco Divas—must stop the attacks before it's too late. Aided by a part-time psychic, a Shirley Temple lookalike, and her seven-foot-tall partner, Donna races to protect the casinos, the Elvis impersonators... and maybe even a few people she actually likes. *At First I Was Afraid* launches a sharp, funny new mystery series.

SPEAKING TO THE UNSEEN

BY Marcia Preston · Roan & Weatherford Publishing Associates

Diagnosed with a rare, genetic disease passed through the women in her family, Chantalene knows she may not live past thirty-three... and her thirtieth birthday is fast approaching. Her only hope lies with her elusive great-grandmother, Gamma Rose, a legendary Romani seeress who vanished decades ago. As Chantalene searches for her, she also seeks answers about her missing grandmother and the secrets buried in her bloodline. What she uncovers—a hidden family, long-held betrayals, and a chance at survival—could change everything. In the face of death, Chantalene must confront the past to rewrite her future before time runs out.

ONCE IN THE BLUE MOON

BY Virginia Miller Reeves · Deep Vellum Publishing

Set on a red-dirt cotton farm in 1940s Oklahoma, *Once in the Blue Moon* follows young Maggie as her family faces the harsh realities of life near the end of World War II. With their home in jeopardy and their beloved father fallen into alcoholism, Maggie, her sisters, and their mother must summon extraordinary strength to carry on. A moving tale of ordinary people confronting hardship, this story is one of an enduring power found in family ties.

BEST SELLER

BY Christina Rost • Scrivenings Press

When crime novelist Kelly Landon agrees to ghostwrite a memoir for an eccentric elderly man, she doesn't expect to uncover clues to a cache of stolen WWII jewels. As the memoir becomes a bestseller, Kelly is thrust into a deadly game of cat-and-mouse, targeted by those desperate to claim the treasure. Entangled in a web of secrets and betrayal, she must navigate hidden legacies and dangerous truths—all while choosing whether to trust her charming agent or her loyal bodyguard. In a race for answers, Kelly must solve the mystery behind the memoir before she becomes its final chapter.

MY WAR, MY CHILD

BY Bharati Sen · Admission Press

Afsana, a promising law student in Dhaka, is newly married and full of hope when the 1971 Bangladesh War for Independence shatters her world. Years later, she's forced to confront a painful past when her first husband—presumed dead—returns. *My War, My Child* tells the powerful, untold story of the birangona, women who endured horrific violence during the war and were left to rebuild their lives amid trauma, loss, and unexpected motherhood. Compassionate and unflinching, this novel offers a poignant look at survival, resilience, and the strength of women caught in the crossfire of history who are determined to carry on.

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF ROGUES

BY Lauren Smith · Lauren Smith Publisher

When Sherlock Holmes dares scientist Elise Hamblin to study the primal nature of men, she accepts on the condition her subject is the notorious Earl of March. Recently returned from exile, Prospero Harrington answers her curious ad, unaware he's being secretly observed by a woman in disguise. As Elise shadows him through London, their unlikely connection deepens into passion. In *The Care and Feeding of Rogues*, a wager turns into a thrilling romance between a brilliant scientist and a scandalous rogue with a heart of gold.

THE PROMISE OF UNBROKEN STRAW

BY Ken Steele · Yorkshire Publishing

In 1944 Oklahoma, 13-year-old Paul watches his family farm teeter on the edge of ruin, until an unexpected windfall changes everything. Sudden wealth brings even greater challenges. Uprooted to Tulsa, Paul and his brother face elite schools, bullies, and a distant father whose expectations weigh heavily. Haunted by guilt, grief, and long-buried secrets, Paul's journey stretches across decades as he searches for a sense of the father he never truly knew. *The Promise of Unbroken Straw* is a powerful coming-of-age story about loss, resilience, and an enduring hope.

SHE HAS NO TELL

BY William A. Stoskopf · Quakerfield

In 1857, abolitionist Giulia Chapman unexpectedly inherits a Mississippi plantation and travels to meet the people enslaved by her predecessor. This historical novel follows Giulia; Tuessey, a Black cook at the plantation; and Lavinia Swallette-Clarke, a white Southern matriarch. Despite their differences, the women form an unlikely bond as war looms. Facing violence, betrayal, and moral reckoning, they confront a brutal overseer and the horrors of a divided nation. Weaving themes of resistance, friendship, and survival, the story follows their journey from the Deep South through the Civil War and into a new life forged together on the Kansas frontier.

THE SECRET KEEPER OF MAIN STREET

BY Trisha R. Thomas · HarperCollins

In 1954 Oklahoma, Bailey Dowery is a gifted Black dressmaker known for crafting gowns for the town's wealthiest brides, but Bailey has a secret: an inherited ability to glimpse a person's past and future through touch. To protect herself, she works wearing gloves. When Elsa Grimes, a joyless bride from a powerful oil family, arrives for a fitting, Bailey's visions reveal something terrifying. Despite warnings to keep a low profile, Bailey is drawn in. When a murder shocks the town and Elsa is arrested, Bailey must risk everything to uncover the truth.

DEATH AND GLORY

BY Will Thomas • St. Martin's Publishing Group

In 1894 London, private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker and his partner Thomas Llewelyn face their most perilous case yet. A secretive delegation of former Confederate officers enlists Barker to discreetly approach the British Prime Minister, threatening to expose a long-buried treaty promising a warship to the South during the American Civil War. With tensions rising, Barker and Llewelyn must unravel the truth before history repeats itself in deadly fashion.

SPRINGHILL

BY John F. Toles · Sherwood Forest Publishing

There's lost... and then there's lost in Louisiana. When Bill Montgomery lands in the small town of Springhill, escape is his only goal. But in one sweltering afternoon, he begins to uncover the quirky charm, secrets, and soul of a place unlike any other. Blending humor, heart, and Southern grit, this novel paints a vivid portrait of small-town life and the unforgettable characters who call it home.



BOOK AWARDS

CELEBRATING NOTABLE BOOKS + AUTHORS

Congratulations

to this year's finalists and winners!

Friends of the OKLAHOMA CENTER FOR THE BOOK

is a proud supporter of the Oklahoma Book Awards alongside the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

SHADOW OF HOPE

BY Molly Crowe · Yorkshire Publishing

In Shadow of Hope, Kalista is set to marry the accomplished Captain Luke Ramsey—an ideal match by all accounts. Everything changes when a figure from her past reappears: an orphan with a shadowy history. Though seven years have passed, the connection between them hasn't faded. Molly Crowe weaves a gripping YA fantasy filled with forbidden love, hidden truths, and dangerous choices. With richly drawn characters and emotional depth, this is a story of second chances and courage to carry on when all seems lost.

VAMPIRITA AND THE ANGRY MOB

BY Mariana Llanos • Reycraft Books

Embark on a fang-tastic adventure with *Vampirita and the Angry Mob*, written by Mariana Llanos and illustrated by Laura Brenlla. Vampirita's life takes an unexpected turn when she swaps Lima, Peru, for Sunny City, California. In this whimsical tale, join her in navigating the challenges of fitting into a town that's a far cry from her eerie hometown. Will Vampirita's mischievous plan to bring spooky back succeed, or will she discover unexpected enchantment in the seemingly mundane?

THE LITTLE GREEN SWING

BY Brenda Maier • Scholastic Press

Ruby's mind is bursting with big ideas. One blustery day, she sets out to build something stupendous and invites her brothers to help, but they're more interested in rushing through the fun than making a solid plan. When the wind knocks down their flimsy creations, it's up to clever Ruby to show that patience, persistence, and smart design make all the difference. Loosely inspired by *The Three Little Pigs, The Little Green Swing* is a joyful, STEM-friendly tale full of pluck, creativity, and sibling shenanigans.

ONCE IN THE BLUE MOON

BY Virginia Miller Reeves · Deep Vellum Publishing

Set on a red dirt cotton farm in 1940s Oklahoma, *Once in the Blue Moon* follows young Maggie as her family faces the harsh realities of life near the end of World War II.

With their home in jeopardy and their beloved father fallen into alcoholism, Maggie, her sisters, and their mother must summon extraordinary strength in order to carry on. A moving tale of ordinary people confronting hardship, this story is one of an enduring power found in family ties.

FIND HER

BY Ginger Reno · Holiday House

Wren can still see her mother in her dreams—the smile, the laugh, the eyes—but her mother has been missing for years, one of too many murdered and missing Indigenous women in Oklahoma. Wren's father refuses to talk about it, but she remains determined to find answers. The discovery of an injured animal leads her on another search. With the help of an unlikely friend, Wren vows to solve this new mystery, all while keeping her investigations a secret from her father. *Find Her* is a gripping story of mystery and justice.

WHEN WE GATHER (OSTADAHLISIHA): A Cherokee Tribal Feast

BY Andrea L. Rogers · HarperCollins

As the dirt warms and green sprouts poke up, a Cherokee girl joins her family in the search for green onions. Together, they pick enough to bring to a feast, which is cooked with love and shared by their community. "Idalisdayvhvga!" "Let's all eat!" Written with simple, sensory lyricism by Andrea Rogers (Cherokee) and featuring warm, wonderful art by Madelyn Goodnight (Chickasaw), this picture book celebrates the spring tradition of wild onion dinners and the community comfort that is shared when we gather.

I AM OSAGE: How Clarence Tinker Became the First Native American Major General

BY Kim Rogers · HarperCollins

Clarence Tinker, a proud member of the Osage Nation, always dreamed of doing something meaningful. Despite being taken from his family and sent to a prison-like boarding school where he was barred from speaking his language or practicing his culture, Clarence never gave up on his goals or his identity. In this powerful picture book, author Kim Rogers (Wichita) and illustrator Bobby Von Martin (Choctaw) tell the true story of how Clarence became the first Native American to reach the rank of major general in the U.S. military.

CLACK, CLACK! SMACK! A CHEROKEE STICKBALL STORY

BY Traci Sorell • Charlesbridge

Written by award-winning Cherokee author Traci Sorell, *Clack, Clack! Smack!* is an action-packed story that celebrates perseverance, teamwork, and the importance of every player on and off the field. Perfect for sports lovers from ages four to seven, this fast-paced picture book introduces readers to the traditional Cherokee game of stickball, sharing informative back matter about its history and cultural significance.

KINDRED SPIRITS SHILOMBISH ITTIBACHVFFA

BY Leslie Stall Widener • Charlesbridge

In this powerful nonfiction picture book, Choctaw author Leslie Stall Widener and Navajo illustrator Johnson Yazzie share a remarkable true story of empathy and generosity that spans continents and centuries. During Ireland's devastating Potato Famine in 1845, the Choctaw Nation—still reeling from the Trail of Tears—gathered what little they had to send aid. Over a century later, Irish people honored that gift with a memorial and, in 2020, repaid the kindness by supporting the Navajo and Hopi Nations during the COVID-19 crisis. This story reminds readers that empathy creates kindness that lives well beyond a single act.





Mike Wimmer

Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement

Mike Wimmer is an internationally acclaimed portrait artist whose work transcends likeness to capture the spirit and story of his subjects. From his studio in Savannah, Wimmer creates timeless tributes

that celebrate character, achievement, and legacy. Over a four-decade career, he has collaborated with cultural icons, CEOs, and institutions across the country.

Raised in Muskogee, Oklahoma, Wimmer found early purpose in drawing: a passion that led him to earn a BFA at the University of Oklahoma and an MFA from the University of Hartford. His illustrations have appeared on over 300 book covers, brought awardwinning children's books to life, and characterized iconic brand identities like Celestial Seasonings Tea. Portraiture remains his predominant medium, with works put on display by the Oklahoma State Capitol, the University of Arkansas, and leading corporate curators.

Wimmer is also a dedicated educator and Professor of Illustration at the Savannah College of Art and Design. His personal motto—"Learn It. Live It. Teach It."—reflects his commitment to sharing both skill and passion with the next generation of artists. Grounded by his deep love for family, Wimmer continues to draw inspiration from the lives he depicts. Each portrait he creates is more than a painting; it's a visual narrative, rich with meaning and crafted to endure for generations.

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 historian from Norman, Oklahoma who served as the first president of the Oklahoma Center for the Book.

PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

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 **Cynthea Liu** *Bike on, Bear!* * Young Adult **Alton Carter** *The Boy Who Carried Bricks*

- 2017 Children Jane McKellips Dust Storm * Young Adult Lutricia Clifton Seeking Cassandra
- 2018 Children/Young Adult **Patricia Loughlin •** Angie Debo: Daughter of the Prairie
- 2019 Children Hannah E. Harrison Friends Stick Together * Young Adult Brad McLelland and Louis Sylvesterr • Legends of the Lost Causes
- 2020 Children **Hannah E. Harrison** Bear Is Awake! * Young Adult **Kate Hannigan** CAPE
- 2021 Children **Barbara Lowell** *My Mastodon* * Young Adult **Kim Ventrella** *The Secret Life of Sam*
- 2022 Children Mariana Llanos Run, Little Chaski! An Inka Trail Adventure * Young Adult Dan SaSuWeh Jones • Living Ghosts & Mischievous Monsters: Chilling American Indian Stories
- 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
- 2024 Children **Mariana Llanos** Benita and the Night Creatures * Young Adult **Traci Sorell** Mascot

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 Frip*
- 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 Haves-**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 **leannie 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 Smallest Hint: Photographs and Poems
- 2024 Design **Jackson Davis** Otis W. Leader: The Ideal American Doughboy * Illustration Brian Call • The Florentine Poet

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*
- 2024 Sheldon Russell Listen

Non-Fiction

- 1990 Leonard Leff Hitchcock & Selznick
- 1991 Carl Albert and Danney Goble Little Giant
- **David Morgan, Robert England**, and **George Humphreys** Oklahoma Politics & Policies:
 Governing the Sooner State
- **Henry Bellmon** and **Pat Bellmon** *The Life and Times of Henry Bellmon;* and **Daniel Boorstin** *The Creators*
- **J. Brent Clark** 3rd Down and Forever
- **Dennis McAuliffe Jr.** The Deaths of Sybil Bolton
- 1996 William Paul Winchester A Very Small Farm
- **Annick Smith** *Big Bluestem: A Journey Into the Tall Grass*
- **John Hope Franklin** and **John Whittington Franklin**, Editors *My Life and an Era: The*Autobiography of Buck Colbert Franklin
- **Bob Burke** From Oklahoma to Eternity: The Life of Wiley Post and the Winnie Mae
- **Michael Wallis •** The Real Wild West: The 101 Ranch and the Creation of the American West
- **David LaVere •** Contrary Neighbors: Southern Plains and Removed Indians in Indian Territory
- **Lydia L. Wyckoff**, Editor Woven Worlds: Basketry from the Clark Field Collection
- **Michael A. Mares •** A Desert Calling: Life in a Forbidding Landscape
- **Eric R. Pianka** and **Laurie J. Vitt •** *Lizards:* Windows to the Evolution of Diversity
- **Ed Cray ·** Ramblin' Man: The Life and Times of Woody Guthrie
- **Timothy Egan** *The Worst Hard Time*
- 2007 Charles Robert Goins and Danney Goble Historical Atlas of Oklahoma, Fourth Edition
- **Nancy Isenberg •** Fallen Founder: The Life of Aaron Burr
- **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
- **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
- **Daniel Blake Smith** An American Betrayal: Cherokee Patriots and the Trail of Tears
- **W.K. Stratton** Floyd Patterson: The Fighting Life of Boxing's Invisible Champion
- **Mary Jane Warde** When the Wolf Came: The Civil War and the Indian Territory
- **Cheryl Elizabeth Brown Wattley •** A Step Toward Brown v. Board of Education: Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher and Her Fight to End Segregation
- **Holly Bailey** The Mercy of the Sky

- **Rusty Williams •** The Red River Bridge War: A Texas-Oklahoma Border Battle
- **David Grann ·** Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI
- **Robert L. Dorman ·** *Alfalfa Bill: A Life in Politics*
- 2020 Randy Krehbiel Tulsa 1921: Reporting a Massacre
- **David W. Levy •** Breaking Down Barriers: George McLaurin and the Struggle to End Segregated Education
- **Michael J. Hightower •** At War with Corruption: A Biography of Bill Price, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma
- **Tracy Daugherty •** The Land and the Days: A Memoir of Family, Friendship, and Grief
- **Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer •** Otis W. Leader: The Ideal American Doughboy

Poetry

- **William Kistler** *The Elizabeth Sequence*
- **Carol Hamilton** Once the Dust
- **Jim Barnes** *The Sawdust War*
- 1994 Carter Revard An Eagle Nation
- **Joy Harjo** *The Woman Who Fell from the Sky*
- **Francine Ringold** *The Trouble with Voices*
- **Renata Treitel** translation of Rosita Copioli's The Blazing Lights of the Sun
- **Betty Shipley** Somebody Say Amen
- **Mark Cox** *Thirty-Seven Years from the Stone*
- **N. Scott Momaday** *In the Bear's House*
- **Carolyne Wright** Seasons of Mangoes and Brainfire
- **Ivy Dempsey •** The Scent of Water: New and Selected Poems
- **Joy Harjo** How We Became Human: New and Selected Poems
- **Laura Apol** Crossing the Ladder of Sun
- 2005 Francine Ringold Still Dancing
- **Leanne Howe** Evidence of Red
- **Carl Sennhenn** Travels Through Enchanted Woods
- 2008 Sandra Soli What Trees Know
- 2009 Nathan Brown Two Tables Over
- **Jeanetta Calhoun Mish** Work is Love Made Visible: Poetry and Family Photographs
- **Benjamin Myers** *Elegy for Trains*
- **Joe Dale Tate Nevaquaya** Leaving Holes & Selected New Writings
- **Carl Sennhenn** Nocturnes and Sometimes, Even I
- 2014 Yvonne Carpenter, Nancy Goodwin, Catherine McCraw, Clynell Reinschmiedt, and Carol Waters Red Dirt Roads
- **Jessica Isaacs** Deep August
- **Loren Graham** Places I Was Dreaming
- 2017 Sly Alley Strong Medicine

- **Ron Wallace** *Renegade* (and Other Poems)
- **Laura Apol** *Nothing but the Blood*
- **Joy Harjo** An American Sunrise
- **Linda Hogan** *A History of Kindness*
- **Ken Hada ·** Contour Feathers
- 2023 Mary B. Gray · Who Do You Think You Are?
- 2024 Karen Kay Knauss Sand: At the Mercy of Wind

Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award

- **Daniel Boorstin**—Librarian of Congress Emeritus—Tulsa
- **Tony Hillerman**—award-winning mystery writer—native of Sacred Heart
- **Savoie Lottinville**—Director of the University of Oklahoma Press for 30 years
- **Harold Keith**—Newbery Award winning children's author—Norman
- **N. Scott Momaday**—Pulitzer Prize winning Kiowa author—native of Lawton
- **R.A. Lafferty**—Hugo Award winning author—Tulsa
- **John Hope Franklin**—historian—native of Rentiesville
- **S.E. Hinton**—author of young adult novels—Tulsa
- **Jack Bickham**—novelist, teacher, and journalist—Norman
- 1999 Michael Wallis—historian and biographer—Tulsa
- **Bill Wallace**—writer of novels for young people— Chickasha
- **Joyce Carol Thomas**—children and adult fiction author, and playwright—native of Ponca City
- **World Literature Today**—The University of Oklahoma, Norman
- **Joy Harjo**—poet and member of the Muscogee Nation—native of Tulsa
- **Carolyn Hart**—award-winning mystery writer— Oklahoma City
- **C.J. Cherryh**—Hugo Award winning author— Oklahoma City
- 2006 Bob Burke—Oklahoma historian—Oklahoma City
- **Clifton Taulbert**—award-winning author—Tulsa
- **David Dary**—award-winning author—Norman
- **Robert J. Conley**—Cherokee author—native of Cushing
- **David G. Fitzgerald**—award-winning photographer—Oklahoma City
- **Rilla Askew**—novelist—native of Sans Bois Mountains
- **Anna Myers**—author of young adult novels—Chandler
- 2013 Billie Letts—novelist—Tulsa
- **Alvin O. Turner**—educator, historian, author, and poet—Norman

- **Rennard Strickland**—author, historian, and legal scholar—Norman
- **Diane Glancy**—poet, author, and playwright—Tulsa
- 2017 Dr. George Henderson—educator and author— Norman
- **Tim Tingle**—author, storyteller, and performer—member Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- **Wiliam Bernhardt**—award-winning author— Choctaw
- **Hannibal B. Johnson**—author and historian—
- **Jim Stovall**—author, motivational speaker, and movie producer—Tulsa
- **Sheldon Russell**—author and former educator
- **LeAnne Howe**—author and professor

Ralph Ellison Award

- **Ralph Ellison**—National Book Award winner—Oklahoma City
- 997 Angie Debo—"First Lady of Oklahoma History"— Marshall
- **Melvin Tolson**—poet, journalist, and dramatist— Langston
- **Jim Thompson**—novelist and screenwriter— Anadarko
- **John Berryman**—poet, biographer, and editor—McAlester
- **Lynn Riggs**—playwright and screenwriter—Claremore
- **Woody Guthrie**—author, illustrator, and songwriter—Okemah
- **John Joseph Mathews**—Osage novelist and historian—Pawhuska
- **Muriel Wright**—acclaimed Oklahoma historian— Oklahoma City
- **Danney Glenn Goble**—acclaimed Oklahoma historian—Tulsa
- **Stan Hoig**—author, journalist, and historian—Edmond
- **Alexander Lawrence Posey**, poet, journalist, and essayist—Eufaula
- **Dr. H. Wayne Morgan**, author and historian—Norman
- **Ralph Marsh**, newspaperman, award-winning magazine writer, and author—Okemah
- **Sanora Babb**, novelist, journalist, and poet— Red Rock

Lynn McIntosh Award for Excellence

- **Doris Eaton Travis** The Days We Danced: The Story of My Theatrical Family
- **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
- 2024 Gwendolyn F. Mukes Gwen Didn't Care

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,
- 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
- 2024 **Richard Rouillard**, outstanding board member of the Friends of the Center for the Book

Past Presidents

Arrell Gibson, namesake of the Center's lifetime achievement award, Norman 1986–1988

Dan Blanchard, Oklahoma City 1988–1990
Judy Moody, Tulsa 1990–1992

David Clark, Norman 1992–1993

Glenda Carlile, Oklahoma City 1994–1995

Laurie Sundborg, Tulsa 1996–1997

Liz Codding, Oklahoma City 1998–2000

B.J. Williams, Oklahoma City 2001–2004

M.J. VanDeventer, Oklahoma City 2005–2007

Lynn McIntosh, Ardmore 2008–2010

Gini Moore Campbell, Oklahoma City 2011–2015

Jeanne Devlin, Oklahoma City 2016–2018

Steven Baker, Oklahoma City 2019-2023

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The Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book is a cultural and educational nonprofit organization with the mission to advance and promote the role of books and reading in Oklahoma. The Friends support and enhance the various programs and projects of the Oklahoma Center For the Book in the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

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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.

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Recognizing This Year's Notable Literary Contributions

"I read for pleasure, and that is the moment

I learn the most." – Margaret Atwood

The 2025 Oklahoma Book Awards is a project of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries in partnership with the Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book.



