

N C B R

Northern California Book Reviewers

1450 Fourth Street #4, Berkeley, CA 94710, 510/525-5476, NCBR@poetryflash.org, Poetryflash.org

38th ANNUAL NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BOOK AWARDS

Media contact: Joyce Jenkins, cell 510-612-3958, editor@poetryflash.org. Photographs available on request.

Winners Announced!

Northern California's vibrant literary scene celebrated at the 38th annual Northern California Book Awards, Sunday, June 23, 2019, Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Main Library, 100 Larkin Street in San Francisco. The NCBA's recognized the best published works of 2018 by Northern California authors. Berkeley poet and critic **Sandra M. Gilbert** was honored with the Fred Cody Award for Lifetime Achievement and Service; the award carries an honorarium of \$1,000. Winning authors read briefly from the winning books. A book signing and reception followed the Awards Ceremony. Eligible books were divided into eight categories: Fiction, General Nonfiction, Creative Nonfiction, Poetry, Children's Literature (Younger Readers and Older Readers), and Translation (Poetry and Prose). Northern California reviewers and editors read the books and discussed their merits to pick the winners. All of the nominated books on this recommended reading list were acknowledged at the ceremony.

Master of Ceremonies: Caille Millner, columnist at the *San Francisco Chronicle* and author.

NCBR GROUNDBREAKER AWARD - Small Press Distribution on their 50th Anniversary

NCBR RECOGNITION AWARD - John McMurtrie, *San Francisco Chronicle* Books Editor 2008-2019

The 2019 Northern California Book Award Nominees and Winners are:

FICTION

The Incendiaries, R.O. Kwon, Riverhead Books

***The Winter Soldier*, Daniel Mason, Little, Brown and Company (winner)**

There There, Tommy Orange, Alfred A. Knopf

Winter Kept Us Warm, Anne Raeff, Counterpoint

Hungry Ghost Theater, Sarah Stone, WTAW Press

GENERAL NONFICTION

***American Prison: A Reporter's Undercover Journey into the Business of Punishment*, Shane Bauer, Penguin Press (winner)**

And Then They Were Gone, Teenagers of Peoples Temple from High School to Jonestown, Judy Bebelar and Ron Cabral, Sugartown Publishing

Crush: The Triumph of California Wine, John Briscoe, University of Nevada Press

Birds of Berkeley, Oliver James, Heyday

Almost Nothing: The 20th-Century Art and Life of Józef Czapski, Eric Karpeles, New York Review of Books

CREATIVE NONFICTION

Lyric Multiples: Aspiration, Practice, Immanence, Migration, George Albon, Nightboat Books

***The Monk of Mokha*, Dave Eggers, Alfred A. Knopf (winner)**

Flunk. Start. Reclaiming My Decade Lost in Scientology, Sands Hall, Counterpoint

A Last Survivor of the Orphan Trains, William Walters and Victoria Golden, Orphan Books

Raw Material: Working Wool In the West, Stephany Wilkes, Oregon State University Press

POETRY

Cenzontle, Marcelo Hernandez Castillo, BOA Editions

Be With, Forrest Gander, New Directions

Her Mouth as Souvenir, Heather June Gibbons, University of Utah Press

Extra Hidden Life, among the Days, Brenda Hillman, Wesleyan (winner)

Isako Isako, Mia Ayumi Malhotra, Alice James Books

Flyover Country, Austin Smith, Princeton University Press

TRANSLATION IN POETRY

Wild Geese Sorrow, The Chinese Wall Inscriptions at Angel Island, new translations by Jeffrey Thomas Leong, Calypso Editions (winner)

Poetry Comes Out of My Mouth, Selected Poems of Mario Santiago Papasquiaro, translated from the Spanish by Arturo Mantecón, Artwork by Maceo Montaya, Diálogos Books

TRANSLATION IN PROSE

Poso Wells, Gabriela Alemán, translated by Dick Cluster, from the Spanish, City Lights Books

I Didn't Talk, Beatriz Bracher, translated by Adam Morris, from the Portuguese, New Directions (winner)

Revolution Sunday, Wendy Guerra, translated by Achy Obejas, from the Spanish, Melville House

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE-YOUNGER READERS

Ta-Da!, Kathy Ellen Davis, illustrated by Kaylani Juanita, Chronicle Books

Ode to an Onion: Pablo Neruda & His Muse, Alexandria Giardino, illustrated by Felicita Sala, Cameron Kids (winner)

Part-Time Mermaid, Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Cambria Evans, Disney-Hyperion

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE-OLDER READERS

Picture Us in the Light, Kelly Loy Gilbert, Disney-Hyperion

Out of Left Field, Ellen Klages, Viking Books for Young Readers

Blanca & Roja, Anna-Marie McLemore, Feiwel & Friends (winner)

The Orphan Band of Springdale, Anne Nesbet, Candlewick

FRED CODY AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT & SERVICE

Poet and literary critic Sandra M. Gilbert

Sandra M. Gilbert has published numerous volumes of criticism, in feminist literary criticism, feminist theory, and psychoanalytic criticism. She is best known for her collaborative critical work with Susan Gubar, *The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination*, widely recognized as a central text of second-wave feminism. Joyce Carol Oates said of it, “*The Madwoman in the Attic*, originally published in 1979, has long since become a classic, one of the most important works of literary criticism of the 20th century.” Carolyn See called it “A masterpiece” in the *Los Angeles Times Book Review*. Gilbert co-edited, with Susan Gubar, *The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women, Shakespeare’s Sisters: Feminist Essays on Women Poets*, and co-authored *No Man’s Land: The Place of the Woman Writer in the 20th Century* (in three volumes), among numerous other works. Sandra Gilbert edited the just published *Essential Essays: Culture, Politics, and the Art of Poetry*, a career-spanning selection of the courageous and boldly political prose of National Book Award-winning poet Adrienne Rich. Also a poet, Sandra Gilbert’s tenth book of poetry, published in 2019, is *Judgment Day*. She has received many awards, including, in 2017, an honorary doctorate from Harvard University, and in 2012, together with frequent collaborator Susan Gubar, the National Book Critics Circle’s Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award. Distinguished Professor of English Emerita at the University of California, Davis, Sandra Gilbert lives in Berkeley, California.

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 Daniel Ellsberg, 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.

The Awards' Sponsors

Poetry Flash, Women's National Book Association-San Francisco Chapter, PEN West, Mechanics' Institute Library, San Francisco Public Library, and the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library sponsor and/or present the Northern California Book Awards.

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