

New Letters

Final Judges for the 2016 Literary Awards



Hilma Wolitzer
Fiction Judge



Jericho Brown
Poetry Judge



Mia Leonin
Essay Judge

PRELIMINARY JUDGES, 2016 NEW LETTERS AWARDS

Fiction: Catherine Browder, R.M. Kinder, Michael Pritchett

Poetry: Kevin Rabas, Nicole Higgins, Trish Reeves

Essay: Steve Paul, Linda Rodriguez

WINNERS ANNOUNCED, BELOW:

(\$4,500 IN AWARDS)

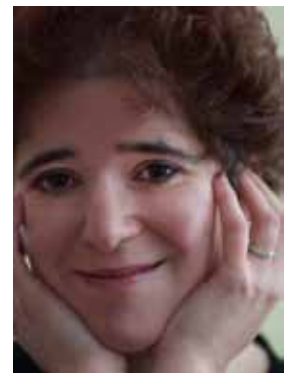
THE NEW LETTERS PRIZE FOR FICTION

Jendi Reiter is the author of the novel *Two Natures* (Saddle Road P, 2016) and the poetry collection *Bullies in Love* (Little Red Tree, 2015). Her poetry and short fiction have won awards from *Bayou Magazine*, *Cervena Barva Press*, *The Iowa Review*, *Wag's Revue*, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, among others. She is the editor of *WinningWriters.com*, an online resource site for creative writers.

Fiction Runner-Up: Courtney Zoffness, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Honorable Mention: Michael Mark, Eliot, Maine

Fiction Judge Hilma Wolitzer is the author of several novels, including *An Available Man: A Novel* (Ballantine Books, 2012) and *Summer Reading: A Novel* (Ballantine Books, 2008). She is a recipient of Guggenheim and National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, and an Award in Literature from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. She has taught writing at the University of Iowa, New York University, and Columbia University. She lives in New York City.



Winner: Jendi Reiter for
"Taking Down the Pear
Tree"

NEW LETTERS PRIZE FOR POETRY

Deborah Bogen is the author of three books of poems, *Let Me Open You a Swan* (Elixir Press, 2010), *Landscape with Silos* (Texas A&M U P, 2005), *Living by the Children's Cemetery*, (ByLine Press, 2002), as well as two historical novels. She lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Poetry Runner-Up: Steve Lautermilch, Kill Devil Hills, N.C.

Poetry Judge Jericho Brown's first book, *Please* (New Issues, 2008), won the American Book Award, and his second book, *The New Testament* (Copper Canyon, 2014), won the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and was named one of the best books of the year by *Library Journal* and the Academy of American Poets. He is the recipient of Whiting Writers Award and fellowships from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University and the National Endowment for the Arts. He is an associate professor in English and creative writing at Emory University in Atlanta.



Winner: Deborah Bogen for "My Stint as a Librarian & Other Poems"

THE NEW LETTERS PRIZE FOR THE ESSAY

Mark Osteen is a professor of English and director of the Center for the Humanities at Loyola University, Maryland. He has published a memoir, *One of Us: A Family's Life with Autism* (U of Missouri P, 2010), and is the author or editor of several other books on literature, film, and music. His creative nonfiction has appeared in *Weber: The Contemporary West*, and in various essay collections; his essay "Pas de Deux" is forthcoming in the *Journal of Medical Humanities*.

Essay Runner-Up: Judith Hertog, Norwich, Vermont.

Essay Judge Mia Leonin is the author of three books of poetry: *Chance Born* (Anhinga P, 2016), *Braid* (Anhinga P, 1999) and *Unraveling the Bed* (Anhinga P, 2008), and a memoir *Havana and Other Missing Fathers* (U of Arizona P, 2009). She is the recipient of an Academy of American Poets Prize. She teaches creative writing at the University of Miami.



Winner: Mark Osteen for "A Man Down There."

2016 NEW LETTERS AWARDS FINALISTS

The New Letters Prize Finalists for Fiction

Jendi Reiter	Northampton, Mass.	"Taking Down the Pear Tree"
Courtney Zoffness	Brooklyn, N.Y.	"Peanuts Aren't Nuts"
Rolf Yngve	Coronado, Calif.	"Benedictions"
Reena Shah	Brooklyn, N.Y.	"Sweeper Woman"
Donna Gordon	Cambridge, Mass.	"Blood Moon"
Renee Nichols	Alameda, Calif.	"A Stranger in the House"
Michael Mark	Eliot, Maine	"Camping"
Spencer K. Stephens	Rockville, Md.	"Hot Days in Heavy Wool"
Connie Corzilius	Augusta, Ga.	"The Manse"
Sarah McCraw Crow	Canterbury, N.H.	"The Pact"
Tammy Delatorre	Hermosa Beach, Calif.	"The Peacock Thief"
Susan Finch	Nashville, Tenn.	"My Friends, My Sisters, My Doppelgangers"

Jeffrey Janssens	Watervliet, N.Y.	“Dustheads”
Miah Jeffra	San Francisco, Calif.	“Ain’t No Thing”
Angela Rene Kelly	Spartanburg, S.C.	“Nosferatu”
Ginger Cofield Lakhani	Brooklyn, N.Y.	“Bayat”

The New Letters Prize Finalists for Poetry

Deborah Bogen	Pittsburgh, Pa.	“My Stint as a Librarian” & Other Poems
Mary Jo Amani	Swannanoa, N.C.	“Unkindness” & Other Poems
Zachery Hardman	Lakewood, Ohio	“Specialist Frankenstein” & Other Poems
Erin Murphy	Hollidaysburg, Pa.	“Schuhläufer” & Other Poems
Emily Sernaker	Washington, D.C.	“Indianapolis” & Other Poems
Emily Sernaker	Washington D.C.	“Personal Day” & Other Poems
Leslie Ullman	Arroyo Seco, N.M.	“Change instrument roles” & Other Poems
Matt Miller	Exeter, N.H.	“Glory Suits” & Other Poems
Steve Lautermilch	Kill Devil Hills, N.C.	“Figure Eight Island & Other Poems”
Owen McLeod	Easton, Pa.	“Mementomori.com” & Other Poems
Donald Levering	Santa Fe, N.M.	“Something of My Mother—A Suite in Six Poems”
Colby Cedar Smith	Hopewell, N.J.	“Mothers of Demi-Gods” & Other Poems

The New Letters Prize Finalists for the Essay

Dyan Neary	Tallahassee, Fla.	“Stay in Trouble: A Love Song”
Britton Gildersleeve	Tulsa, Okla.	“A Cup of Grace”
Lois Ruskai Melina	Portland, Ore.	“The Grammar of Untold Stories”
Andrea J. Turner	Berkeley, Calif.	“Never Cry Uncle”
Sarah Neidhardt	Portland, Ore.	“Up Fox Mountain”
Alan Emmet	Westford, Mass.	“A Month in Ireland—1990”
Caroline Goodwin	Montara, Calif.	“What They Do”
Michael Larson	Milwaukee, Wis.	“The Contamination of Yoshizawa Ranch”
Kristin Collier	Minneapolis, Minn.	“Emily in the Ocean”
Mark Osteen	Baltimore, Md.	“A Man Down There”
Judith Hertog	Norwich, Vt.	“Jerusalem Syndrome”
Emry McAlear	Ditchling, Hassocks, UK	“Closer to Perfect”
Ann Copeland	Salem, Ore.	“The Composition Blues”

ANNOUNCING THE 2016 LITERARY AWARDS FOR WRITERS PRELIMINARY JUDGES

THE NEW LETTERS PRIZE FOR FICTION

Catherine Browder has received fiction fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Missouri Arts Council. Her latest short story collection is *Now We Can All Go Home* (BkMk Press, 2014).

R.M. Kinder is the author of five books including *Sweet Angel Band* (Helicon Nine, 1991), *A Near-Perfect Gift* (2005), winner of the University of Michigan's Literary Fiction Award, and *The Universe Playing Strings: A Novel* (U of New Mexico P, 2016). She served as the coordinator of the Creative Writing Program and editor of *Pleiades* literary journal, as well as established Pleiades Press at the University of Central Missouri. She serves as editor emerita for *Pleiades* journal and press and as an advisory editor to *New Letters* magazine and BkMk Press. She is a co-editor of Sweetgum Press and Cave Hollow Press, both of which promote regional writing.

Michael Pritchett is the winner of the 2009 Dana Award for a novel-in-progress. He is the author of the novel *The Melancholy Fate of Capt. Lewis* (Unbridled Books, 2007) and of the award-winning collection of stories, *The Venus Tree* (U of Iowa P, 1988). He teaches fiction writing at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

THE NEW LETTERS PRIZE FOR POETRY

Kevin Rabas co-directs the creative writing program at Emporia State University and edits *Flint Hills Review*. He is the author of three poetry collection and two works of fiction: *Bird's Horn*; *Lisa's Flying Electric Piano*, a Kansas Notable Book and Nelson Poetry Book Award winner; *Sonny Kenner's Red Guitar*; *Spider Face: Stories*; and *Green Bike: a Group Novel*.

Trish Reeves has received fellowships for her poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts, Yaddo and the Kansas Arts Commission. Her first collection, *Returning the Question* (Cleveland State University Poetry Center, 1988), received the Cleveland State University Poetry Center Prize. Her book of poems *In the Knees of the Gods* was published by BkMk Press in 2001.

Nicole Higgins received an M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Georgia in 2011. She is a lecturer of English at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and her research interests include contemporary poetry and poetics, African American literature, and music.

THE NEW LETTERS PRIZE FOR NONFICTION

Steve Paul is a writer and editor, critic and teacher. His poems have appeared in *The Kansas City Star* and *New Letters*. He also helps to coordinate the Hemingway Society's international conference. He lives in Kansas City, Missouri.

Linda Rodriguez is the author of the novels *Every Hidden Fear* (Minotaur Books, 2014) and *Every Last Secret* (St. Martin's Press, 2012), which won the Malice Domestic Award. She has published two books of poetry, *Heart's Migration*, winner of the 2010 Thorpe Menn Award for Literary Excellence, and *Skin Hunger*. She has been the recipient of the Elvira Cordero Cisneros Award and the Midwest Voices and Visions Award. She is the vice president of the Latino Writers Collective and lives in Kansas City, Missouri.