2018 Winner: New Letters Prize for Fiction

Amy Widmoyer Hanson is the winner of the 2016 Iowa Review Award in fiction, as judged by Kelly Link, and was nominated for the PEN/Robert J. Dau Short Story Prize. She holds a degree in piano performance and has taught both privately and in the public schools. She writes from the Minneapolis home she shares with her husband and three children.

First Runner-Up: Janis Hubschman, Demarest, N.J.
Second Runner-Up: Emily Moeck, Brighton, Ma.
Honorable Mention: Adam Schwartz, Elkridge, Md.

Fiction Judge Thomas Fox Averill is professor emeritus of English at Washburn University of Topeka, where he taught courses in creative writing and Kansas studies for 37 years. He is the author of 10 books, most recently the novel Found Documents from the Life of Nell Johnson Doerr.

2018 Winner: Conger Beasley Jr. Award for Nonfiction

Robert Stothart, after spending his early years in New Jersey, has lived most of his life in the West—Santa Fe, New Mexico, Bellingham, Washington, and the Big Horn Basin in Wyoming. He has taught in the education department of the Nooksack Tribe in Deming, Washington, and in the Humanities Division of Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming. He lives with his wife on a small ranch on Owl Creek, near Thermopolis, Wyoming.

Honorable Mention: Bridget A. Lyons, Flagstaff, Ariz.
Honorable Mention: Beverly Peterson Stearns, Hamden, Conn.
Honorable Mention: Catina Bacote, Asheville, N.C.

Essay Judge Janet Burroway is a playwright, essayist and the author of eight novels including The Buzzards, Raw Silk, Opening Nights, Cutting Stone, and the 2009 Bridge of Sand. Her memoir Losing Tim appeared in 2014. Her textbook Writing Fiction will be published in a tenth edition by the University of Chicago Press in spring of 2019. She is Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor Emerita at the Florida State University and recipient of the 2014 Lifetime Achievement in Writing Award by the Florida Humanities Council.
Betty Ritz Rogers is a retired public health nurse. She reads and writes poetry, walks dogs, and tends a woodland garden in Greensboro, N.C. She and her husband have three adult children. She is a winner of the 2014 North Carolina State University Poetry Contest, and in 2018 she received the North Carolina Poetry Society’s Poet Laureate Award.

First Runner-Up: Robin Davidson, Houston, Texas.  

Poetry Judge Alberto Ríos’ book *The Smallest Muscle in the Human Body* (Copper Canyon P, 2002) was a finalist for the National Book Award. He is the recipient of the Western Literature Association Distinguished Achievement Award. He is also the author of 10 books of poetry, three collections of short stories, and a memoir, *Capirotada* (U of New Mexico P, 1999), which won the Latino Literary Hall of Fame Award. His latest book is *A Small Story About the Sky* (Copper Canyon P, 2015). He has taught at Arizona State University for over 30 years.

2018 NEW LETTERS AWARDS FINALISTS

New Letters Prize for Fiction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City/State</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carol S. Altman</td>
<td>Denver, Colo.</td>
<td>“Guides from Beyond”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olga Breydo</td>
<td>New York, N.Y.</td>
<td>“Cherry Preserves”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teresa Burns Gunther</td>
<td>Oakland, Calif.</td>
<td>“Abundance”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Widmoyer Hanson</td>
<td>Minneapolis, Minn.</td>
<td>“Independence Road”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Harleman</td>
<td>Oakland, Calif.</td>
<td>“Benessere”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Havlik</td>
<td>Charlotte, N.C.</td>
<td>“Testament”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janis Hubschman</td>
<td>Demarest, N.J.</td>
<td>“A Confusion”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Land</td>
<td>Bethesda, Md.</td>
<td>“A Shortlist of Miracles”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Moeck</td>
<td>Brighton, Mass.</td>
<td>“Soft Boiled”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sue Montgomery</td>
<td>New York, N.Y.</td>
<td>“The Truly Me Doll”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adam Schwartz</td>
<td>Elkridge, Md.</td>
<td>“Carmen and Ant”</td>
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<td>Anne Trooper</td>
<td>Tunbridge, Vt.</td>
<td>“Taking On Water”</td>
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Conger Beasley Jr. Award for Nonfiction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catina Bacote</td>
<td>Forest Hills, N.Y.</td>
<td>“Up North”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathy Beres</td>
<td>Evanston, Ill.</td>
<td>“The Cigar In A Jar”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Birnbaum</td>
<td>Vista, Calif.</td>
<td>“Owosso”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lori Hellis</td>
<td>Bend, Ore.</td>
<td>“Fantôme”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridget Lyons</td>
<td>Flagstaff, Ariz.</td>
<td>“Home on the Wing”</td>
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Alberto Ríos  
Poetry Judge  
Winner: Betty Ritz Rogers for “Josef Sudek (Prague, 1896-1976)”
Will McGrath   Minneapolis, Minn.  “New Sesotho Ghost Story”
Sean W. Murphy  Ranchos de Taos, N.M.  “Church of Jeff”
Kevin O’Connor  Andover, Mass.   “In the Wake of Gatsby’s Dream”
Mark Osteen   Baltimore, Md.   “Silvertone”
Beverly Petterson Stearns  Hamden, Conn.  “Reading the Lindbergh Letters”
Robert Stothart  Thermopolis, Wyo.  “Cataract Surgery”
Terry Ann Thaxton  Winter Springs, Fla.  “Flesh & Bone”
Gao Vang   Minneapolis, Minn.  “The Path of Men”
Mary Wang   New York, N.Y.   “Ten Translations of Care”
Rachel Hinkel-Wang  Easthampton, MA  Excerpt from, “You on a Mountain: The Diary of a Daughter”

New Letters Prize for Poetry

Sarah Gridley   Newbury, Ohio  “Practical Transparency” & Other Poems
Robin Davidson  Houston, Texas  “(Art) History Lesson” & Other Poems
Betty Ritz Rogers  Greensboro, N.C.  “Josef Sudek (Prague, 1896-1976)” & Other Poems
Emily Ransdell  Camas, Wash.  “After Reading Hass” & Other Poems
Karen Lee Boren  Providence, R.I.  “Sacrificial Cherries” & Other Poems
Geffrey Davis  Fayetteville, Ark.  “Survivor” & Other Poems
Steve Lautermilch  Kill Devil Hills, N.C.  “Recuerdos of the Falling Rain” & Other Poems
Sharon Klander  Houston, Texas  “Anniversary” & Other Poems
Soren Stockman  New York, N.Y.  “Your Other Life” & Other Poems
Laura Kolbe  Jamaica Plain, Mass.  “Intensive Care” & Other Poems
David Rock  Rexburg, Idaho  “Objection Overruled” & Other Poems
Jim Richards  Rexburg, Idaho  “Notes on an Enamel Washbowl” & Other Poems
Laurence O'Dwyer  Clonmel, County Tipperary, Ireland  Poems from “Litloy Fyr”

ANNOUNCING THE 2018 LITERARY AWARDS FOR WRITERS
PRELIMINARY JUDGES

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).

Ben Furnish is the author of Nostalgia in Jewish-American Theatre and Film, 1979–2004 (Lang), and he has contributed to such journals and books as Studies in Jewish Civilization, Holocaust Literature, Yiddish Poets and the Soviet Union, Jews & Sex, and Dictionary of Literary Biography. He is managing editor of BkMk Press, University of Missouri-Kansas City, and books he has edited have received attention from major awards and reviewers.

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.
CONGER BEASLEY JR. AWARD 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, Mo., and is the author of Hemingway at Eighteen: The Pivotal Year That Launched an American Legend.

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, Mo.

Lisa D. Stewart has just completed her nonfiction manuscript Bolt: The American Midwest at Four Miles per Hour on a Horse. She has published more than 200 essays in literary journals and equestrian magazines.

NEW LETTERS PRIZE FOR POETRY

Denise Low, Kansas poet laureate from 2007 to 2009, is the author of A Casino Bestiary (Spartan P, 2017) and The Turtle’s Beating Heart: One Family’s Story of Lenape Survival, a memoir (U of Nebraska P, 2017), among others. She serves on the Inclusivity Committee of the Associated Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) and is a contributing editor to AWP’s The Writer’s Chronicle. She lives in Lawrence, Kansas.

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 other books of poems include In the Knees of the Gods (BkMk Press, 2001). Her latest collection is God, Maybe (Scattering Skies Press, 2018).