

New Letters

\$1,500 *New Letters* Prize for Fiction

\$2,500 Conger Beasley Jr. Award for Nonfiction

\$1,500 *New Letters* Prize for Poetry

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*.



Thomas Fox Averill
Fiction Judge



Winner: Amy
Widmoyer Hanson for
“Independence Road.”

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.

First Runner-Up: Kevin T. O’Connor, Andover, Mass.

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.



Janet Burroway
Essay Judge



Winner: Robert Stothart
for “Cataract Surgery.”

2018 Winner: *New Letters Prize for Poetry*

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.

Second Runner-Up: Laura Kolbe, Boston Mass.

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.



Alberto Ríos
Poetry Judge



Winner: Betty Ritz
Rogers for "Josef Sudek
(Prague, 1896-1976)"

2018 NEW LETTERS AWARDS FINALISTS

New Letters Prize for Fiction

Carol S. Altman	Denver, Colo.	"Guides from Beyond"
Olga Breydo	New York, N.Y.	"Cherry Preserves"
Teresa Burns Gunther	Oakland, Calif.	"Abundance"
Amy Widmoyer Hanson	Minneapolis, Minn.	"Independence Road"
Ann Harleman	Oakland, Calif.	"Benessere"
Mark Havlik	Charlotte, N.C.	"Testament"
Janis Hubschman	Demarest, N.J.	"A Confusion"
Susan Land	Bethesda, Md.	"A Shortlist of Miracles"
Emily Moeck	Brighton, Mass.	"Soft Boiled"
Sue Montgomery	New York, N.Y.	"The Truly Me Doll"
Ruthvika Rao	Novi, Mich.	"The Missing Wadhwas"
Jeremy Schnotala	Grand Rapids, Mich.	"Flower World"
Adam Schwartz	Elkridge, Md.	"Carmen and Ant"
Anne Trooper	Tunbridge, Vt.	"Taking On Water"

Conger Beasley Jr. Award for Nonfiction

Catina Bacote	Forest Hills, N.Y.	"Up North"
Cathy Beres	Evanston, Ill.	"The Cigar In A Jar"
Mary Birnbaum	Vista, Calif.	"Owosso"
Wisteria Deng	Ann Arbor, Mich.	"Red and White"
Lori Hellis	Bend, Ore.	"Fantôme"
Bridget Lyons	Flagstaff, Ariz.	"Home on the Wing"

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 Perterson 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	Easthamton, 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
Malcolm Tariq	Atlanta, Ga.	“Bop: Black: Queer Southern Studies” & 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 “Litløy 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 collections 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).