

New Letters

Final Judges for the 2017 Literary Awards



Cristina García
Fiction Judge



Jo McDougall
Poetry Judge



Sergio Troncoso
Essay Judge

PRELIMINARY JUDGES, 2017 *NEW LETTERS* AWARDS

Fiction: Catherine Browder, Ben Furnish, Michael Pritchett

Poetry: Denise Low, Kevin Rabas, Trish Reeves

Essay: Steve Paul, Linda Rodriguez

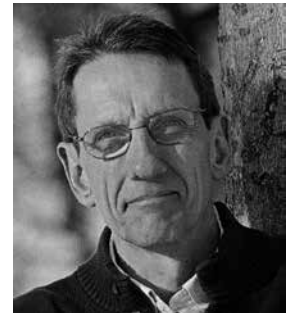
WINNERS ANNOUNCED, BELOW:
(\$4,500 IN AWARDS)

NEW LETTERS PRIZE FOR FICTION

Robert Oldshue was raised in a suburb of Rochester, N.Y., attended Williams College and, after trying other things, went to Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. He did his residency training at the Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital in medicine and pediatrics and is board certified in both. He cares for adults, children and families five days a week at the community health center around the corner from his house. His first collection of stories, *November Storm*, was awarded the Iowa Short Fiction Award in 2016. He is married and has two children. He lives in Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Fiction Runner-Up: Reena Shah, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Fiction Judge Cristina García's work has been nominated for a National Book Award and translated into 14 languages. She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Whiting Award in fiction, a Hodder Fellowship at Princeton University, and an NEA grant, among others. She has taught at universities nationwide. Recently, she completed her tenure as university chair in Creative Writing at Texas State University-San Marcos and as visiting professor at the Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas-Austin. She lives in the San Francisco Bay area.



Winner: Robert Oldshue for "Thomas."

NEW LETTERS PRIZE FOR POETRY

Myrna Stone is the author of five full-length books of poems, *Luz Bones* (Etruscan P, 2017), *In the Present Tense: Portraits of My Father* (White Violet P, 2013), *The Casanova Chronicles* (Etruscan P, 2010), *How Else to Love the World* (Browser Books Publishing, 2007), and *The Art of Loss* (Michigan State U P, 2001). She has won fellowships from the Ohio Arts Council and Vermont Studio Center. A founding member of The Greenville Poets, she lives in Greenville, Ohio.

Poetry Runner-Up: Simona Chitescu Weik, Smyrna, Ga.

Honorable Mention: Roald Hoffmann, Ithaca, N.Y.

Poetry Judge Jo McDougall has published five books of poetry and a memoir, *Daddy's Money*. In 2015 the University of Arkansas Press published her collected poems, *In the Home of the Famous Dead*. She has received awards from the Reader's Digest/DeWitt Wallace Foundation, the Academy of American Poets, the Arkansas Arts Council, and the Porter Prize Foundation of Arkansas, as well as multiple fellowships from the MacDowell Colony. A former co-director of the creative writing program at Pittsburg State University, she lived for many years in the Midwest. She lives in Little Rock, Ark.



Winner: Myrna Stone for "The Resurrectionist's Diary"

NEW LETTERS PRIZE FOR THE ESSAY

E.D. Galbraith works as a caregiver, nonprofit administrator, and freelance editor. Originally from the Midwest, she now calls New England home.

Essay Runner-Up: Peter Chilson, Moscow, Idaho

Essay Judge Sergio Troncoso is the author of *The Last Tortilla and Other Stories*, *Crossing Borders: Personal Essays*, and the novels *The Nature of Truth* and *From This Wicked Patch of Dust*. He co-edited *Our Lost Border: Essays on Life amid the Narco-Violence*. He has won the Premio Aztlán Literary Prize, Southwest Book Award, Bronze Award for Essays from *Foreword Reviews*, International Latino Book Award, and Bronze Award for Multicultural Fiction from *Foreword Reviews*. He has taught writing workshops at the Yale Writers' Conference in New Haven, Conn., and the Hudson Valley Writers' Center in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y. He is a member of the board of councilors and an officer of the Texas Institute of Letters and has served as one of three national judges for the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction. He lives in New York, N.Y.



Winner: E.D. Galbraith for "In the Absence of Obligation"

2017 NEW LETTERS AWARDS FINALISTS

New Letters Prize Finalists for Fiction

Pam Goldman	Pittsburgh, Pa.	“Amulet”
Baylea Jones	Northampton, Mass.	“The Girl from Montana”
Carol LaHines	New York, N.Y.	“Quotidian Prayers”
Mimi Lok	San Francisco, Calif.	“Last of Her Name”
Andrew Robinson	Singapore	“The Hug”
Reena Shah	Brooklyn, N.Y.	“Flamingos”
Eric Schlich	Tallahassee, Fla.	“Not Nobody, Not Nohow”
John Woods	Saluda, Va.	“Harmony Road”

New Letters Prize Finalists for Poetry

Marcia Lawther	New York, N.Y.	Poems from “At One and the Same Time”
Leah Claire Kaminski	Irvine, Calif.	“Orange County bird of prey” & Other Poems
Simona Chitescu Weik	Smyrna, Ga.	“The Carnival Girl’s Manifesto” & Other Poems
Josephine Yu	Tallahassee, Fla.	“The Second Love” & Other Poems
George Looney	Erie, Pa.	“The Forgotten Names of Water-Logged Hulls” & Other Poems
Steve Lautermilch	Kill Devil Hills, N.C.	“Elegy on Rhodoms Point” & Other Poems
C.W. Emerson	Los Angeles, Calif.	Poems from “Coldwater Canyon Suite”
Margo Berdeshevsky	Paris, France	“This: Beside the Arno” & Other Poems
Michael Harty	Prairie Village, Kan.	“Canes” & Other Poems
Arielle Hebert	Cary, N.C.	“Mary in the Glass” & Other Poems
Jeff Gundy	Bluffton, Ohio	“Further Inquiries into <i>Duende</i> ” & Other Poems
Roald Hoffmann	Ithaca, N.Y.	“Rat Language” & Other Poems
Eric Berlin	Baldwinsville, N.Y.	“Irises” & Other Poems
Matthew Carlin	Auburn, Calif.	“Scenes from an Unfinished Movie” & Other Poems

New Letters Prize Finalists for the Essay

Peter Chilson	Moscow, Idaho	“Between Sin and Sin: Border Crossings”
Carolyn Megan	Portland, Maine	“A Wildness Unfolding”
Joseph H. Tyson	Lansdowne, Pa.	“Ted Bundy: White Anglo-Saxon Psychopath”
Valerie Hurley	Charlotte, Vt.	“All Previous Performances Requiring Nerves of Steel Will Be Surpassed”
Jennifer Militello	Goffstown, N.H.	“A Beautiful Housing of Epidemics”
Julia W. Ridge	Portland, Maine	“Roach River”
Ruth Kogen Goodwin	Long Beach, Calif.	“The Swing”
Whitney Templeton	Littleton, Colo.	“The Evolution of a Trigger”
Rochelle Hurt	Chapel Hill, N.C.	“The Art Collector”
Carroll Sandel	Concord, Mass.	“Showdown at Deep Creek”
Karen Y. Hamilton	Hobe Sound, Fla.	“Round One”
Karen Hunt	Phoenix, Ariz.	“The Deep Magic of Passing through Walls”
Elizabeth Lantz	Columbus, Ohio	“The Hanged Woman”

ANNOUNCING THE 2017 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.

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 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 book of poems *In the Knees of the Gods* was published by BkMk Press in 2001.

Denise Low served as poet laureate of Kansas from 2007–2009. She is the author of the memoir *The Turtle's Beating Heart*, the short story collection *Jackalope*, and *Mélange Block*, a book of poetry, among others. She served as president of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs from 2011–2012. She is the co-publisher of Mammoth Publications in Lawrence, Kan., and teaches in the Baker University School of Graduate and Professional Studies.

NEW LETTERS PRIZE FOR THE ESSAY

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 a senior editor and writer for *The Kansas City Star*.

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.