



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Sandra Gioia Treadway
Librarian of Virginia

Library of Virginia Announces Finalists for the 11th Annual Literary Awards

Contact: Janice M. Hathcock
804-692-3592

For Immediate Release

(RICHMOND, VA) — The Library of Virginia is pleased to announce the finalists for the 11th Annual Library of Virginia Literary Awards. The finalists were chosen by an independent panel of judges from 138 books nominated for the awards. The winners will be selected from among these finalists and announced at a gala celebration on October 18, 2008, at the Library of Virginia.

The 2008 finalists for the best **fiction** by a Virginia author are:

- Carrie Brown
The Rope Walk
Pantheon Books
- Helon Habila
Measuring Time
Penguin Books
- Janet Peery
What the Thunder Said
St. Martin's Press

The 2008 finalists for the best **nonfiction** about Virginia or by a Virginia author are:

- Wesley C. Hogan
Many Minds, One Heart: SNCC's Dream for a New America
The University of North Carolina Press
- Barbara Kingsolver with Steven L. Hopp and Camille Kingsolver
Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life
HarperCollins Publishers
- Peter Wallenstein
Cradle of America: Four Centuries of Virginia History
University Press of Kansas

The judges also selected an honorable mention in the nonfiction category: *What This Cruel War Was Over: Soldiers, Slavery, and the Civil War* by Chandra Manning published by Alfred A. Knopf.

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800 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

www.lva.virginia.gov

804.692.3500 *phone*
804.692.3976 *tyy*

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The finalists for the 2008 **poetry** award are:

- Constance Merritt
Blessings and Inclemencies: Poems
Louisiana State University Press
- R.T. Smith
Outlaw Style: Poems
The University of Arkansas Press
- Charles Wright
Littlefoot
Farrar, Straus and Giroux

The Library of Virginia's annual literary awards were first given in 1998 to recognize the best books published the previous year by a Virginia author or in the case of nonfiction on a Virginia theme.

This year's finalists include three authors who have previously won the Library of Virginia's literary award: Charles Wright, Carrie Brown, and R.T. Smith. The authors whose works have been singled out as finalists have received numerous honors including the Pulitzer Prize, Barnes & Noble Discover Award, Caine Prize, State Council of Higher Education Outstanding Faculty Award, National Endowment for Arts and Guggenheim fellowships, Rosenthal Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a National Humanities Medal, Los Angeles Times Book Prize, Bobbitt National Prize, and the Griffin Poetry Prize.

The winners of the fiction, nonfiction, and poetry awards will be announced on Saturday, October 18, 2008, from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at the 11th Annual Library of Virginia Awards Celebration Honoring Virginia Authors & Friends. The winners of the People's Choice Award, the Weinstein Poetry Prize, and the Whitney & Scott Cardozo Award for Children's Literature also will be announced that evening. Winners of the Library of Virginia's literary awards will receive a \$3,500 monetary award and a crystal replica of a book. Tickets are available at \$85 per ticket. For ticket information, please call 804-692-3900.

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