



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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Library of Virginia Announces Finalists for the 14th Annual Literary Awards

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For Immediate Release

Nine authors are the finalists for the Library of Virginia's 14th Annual Library of Virginia Literary Awards honoring Virginia authors or, in the case of nonfiction, works on a Virginia subject. One additional author will receive honorable mention.

The finalists were chosen by an independent panel of judges from 129 books nominated for the awards. The winners in each category will be selected from among these finalists and announced at a gala celebration on October 15, 2011, at the Library of Virginia.

Poetry

- Michael Chitwood *Poor-Mouth Jubilee*
- Kathleen Graber *The Eternal City*
- Lesley Wheeler *Heterotopia*

The judges also selected an honorable mention in the poetry category: *A Walk in Victoria's Secret* by Kate Daniels.

Fiction

- Belle Boggs *Mattaponi Queen*
- John Casey *Compass Rose*
- John Grisham *Ford County*

Nonfiction

- Rebecca Skloot *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*
- Suzanne E. Smith *To Serve the Living: Funeral Directors and the African American Way of Death*
- Kristin Swenson *Bible Babel: Making Sense of the Most Talked About Book of All Time*

The Library of Virginia's annual literary awards were first given in 1998 to recognize the best books published the previous year by Virginia authors or on a Virginia theme. The winners in each of the three categories receive a monetary prize of \$3,500.

This year's finalists include John Casey, who won the National Book Award for *Spartina* in 1989, and poet Kathleen Graber, who was a finalist for the 2010 National Book Award for *The Eternal City*. Nonfiction finalist Rebecca Skloot's *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* was a *New York Times* best seller and won the Heartland Prize for science writing from the *Chicago Tribune*.

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The finalists for the 2011 awards include authors who have received numerous honors including the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award, Fulbright Scholarship, Harper Lee Prize for Legal Fiction, Hanes Award for Poetry from the Fellowship of Southern Writers, James Dickey Prize, Writers for Writers Award, Robert Ruark Foundation Award for Short Fiction, and the Bakeless Fiction Prize.

The winners of the fiction, nonfiction, and poetry awards will be announced on Saturday, October 15, 2011, at the 14th Annual Library of Virginia Awards Celebration Honoring Virginia Authors & Friends. This gala event, sponsored by Dominion, attracts authors, publishers, and those who enjoy the written word. Award-winning author Adriana Trigiani will again serve as host for this event. Earl Hamner will be honored this year as the recipient of the Literary Lifetime Achievement Award.

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. For ticket information, please call 804-692-3900.

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