



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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Librarian of Virginia

Library of Virginia Announces Finalists for the 18th Annual Literary Awards

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For Immediate Release

Nine authors are the finalists for the Library of Virginia's 18th Annual Library of Virginia Literary Awards honoring Virginia authors or, in the case of nonfiction, works on a Virginia subject. One additional author has received honorable mention. The finalists were chosen by an independent panel of judges from 136 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 17, 2015, at the Library of Virginia.

Poetry

- *Spans: New and Selected Poems* Elizabeth Seydel Morgan
- *The Cabinetmaker's Window* Steve Scafidi
- *Sweet Husk* Corrie Williamson

The judges also selected an honorable mention in the poetry category: *What the Neighbors Know* by Melanie McCabe.

Emyl Jenkins Sexton Literary Award for Fiction

- *A Kind of Dream* Kelly Cherry
- *What Is Visible* Kimberly Elkins
- *The Great Glass Sea* Josh Weil

Nonfiction

- *Give War and Peace a Chance* Andrew Kaufman
- *The Road to Black Ned's Forge* Turk McCleskey
- *Overwhelmed* Brigid Schulte

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 \$2,500.

This year's finalists include Kelly Cherry, novelist and former Poet Laureate of Virginia; Kimberly Elkins, a first-time novelist; Josh Weil, a National Book Award "5 Under 35" author; Elizabeth Seydel Morgan, a winner of the Carole Weinstein Poetry Prize and the Philabaum Award from LSU Press; Steve Scafidi, winner of the Larry Levis Reading Prize and the Miller Williams Prize; Corrie Williamson, winner of the Perugia Press Prize and the James Boatwright III Prize for Poetry; Andrew D. Kaufman, an internationally recognized Tolstoy scholar; Turk McCleskey, a professor of history at Virginia Military Institute; and Brigid Schulte, a staff writer for the Washington Post.

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The winners of the fiction, nonfiction, and poetry awards will be announced on Saturday, October 17, 2015, at the 18th 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. Jan Karon will be honored this year as the recipient of the Literary Lifetime Achievement Award.

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

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