



## LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Sandra Gioia Treadway  
Librarian of Virginia

### Library of Virginia Announces Finalists for the 21st Annual Literary Awards

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Richmond, Virginia) – Nine authors are the finalists for the Library of Virginia’s 21st Annual Library of Virginia Literary Awards honoring Virginia authors or, in the case of nonfiction, works on a Virginia subject. The winners of the fiction, nonfiction, and poetry awards—as well as the People’s Choice Awards—will be announced on Saturday, October 20, 2018, at the 21st Annual Library of Virginia Awards Celebration Honoring Virginia Authors & Friends.

This gala event, sponsored by Dominion Energy, attracts library supporters, authors, publishers, and those who enjoy the written word. Award-winning author Adriana Trigiani will again serve as host for this event. Featured speaker will be the best-selling author of *Rin Tin* and *The Orchid Thief*, Susan Orlean, whose latest effort, *The Library Book*, a nonfiction work about the 1986 Los Angeles Public Library fire, will be published on October 16, 2018.

The finalists were chosen by an independent panel of judges from hundreds of books nominated for the awards. The winner in each category will be selected from among these finalists and announced at a gala celebration on Saturday, October 20, 2018, at the Library of Virginia. The 2018 Library of Virginia Literary Award finalist are:

#### FICTION FINALISTS

JAMES MINICK | *Fire Is Your Water*

JANET PEERY | *The Exact Nature of Our Wrongs*

LEAH WEISS | *If the Creek Don’t Rise*

#### NONFICTION FINALISTS

DONNA M. LUCEY | *Sargent’s Women: Four Lives Behind the Canvas*

LIZA MUNDY | *Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II*

DOUGLAS L. WINIARSKI | *Darkness Falls on the Land of Light: Experiencing Religious Awakenings in 18th-Century New England*

#### POETRY FINALISTS

REMICA BINGHAM-RISHER | *Starlight & Error*

LISA RUSS SPAAR | *Orexia*

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DAVID WOJAHN | *For the Scribe*

*Poetry Honorable Mention*

WENDELL HAWKEN | *White Bird: A Sequence*

“The Commonwealth of Virginia is home to many talented writers whose work inspires and informs readers across the world,” said Librarian of Virginia Sandra G. Treadway. “The Library’s annual Literary Awards Celebration is such a joyous way to honor the great works produced in our state. We are privileged to have one of Virginia’s most successful literary talents, Adriana Trigiani, return as host for the evening and to welcome best-selling author Susan Orlean to speak about the importance of libraries.”

The finalists for the Library’s **People’s Choice Awards** for fiction and nonfiction were announced in a previous news release ([www.lva.virginia.gov/news/press/2018PeoplesChoiceAwardsFinalists.pdf](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/news/press/2018PeoplesChoiceAwardsFinalists.pdf)). 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.

For ticket information, please call (804) 692-3813.

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**July 16, 2018**