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### Kerrison, Pineda, Chitwood, and Emerson Receive Literary Awards 2019 recipients honored at the Library of Virginia

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(Richmond, Virginia) – The Library of Virginia is pleased to announce the winners of the 22nd Annual Library of Virginia Literary Awards, sponsored by Dominion Energy. The October 19 awards celebration was hosted by best-selling author and award-winning filmmaker Adriana Trigiani. Awards categories were nonfiction, fiction, and poetry; People's Choice Awards for fiction and nonfiction; and Art in Literature: The Mary Lynn Kotz Award. Winners in each category receive a monetary prize and a handsome engraved crystal book.

The winner of the **2019 Literary Award for Nonfiction** is **Catherine Kerrison** for her book *Jefferson's Daughters: Three Sisters, White and Black, in a Young America*, which "illuminates women's experiences in early America through the lives of Thomas Jefferson's three daughters—Martha and Maria, his children by his wife, and Harriet Hemings, born of his relationship with his slave Sally Hemings," according to the judges.

Kerrison is a professor of history at Villanova University, where she teaches courses in Colonial and Revolutionary America and women's and gender history. She holds a PhD in American history from the College of William and Mary. In addition to *Jefferson's Daughters*, she is the author of *Claiming the Pen: Women and Intellectual Life in the Early American South* (winner of the Outstanding Book Award from the History of Education Society) and several scholarly articles.

The other finalists for the nonfiction prize were Margaret Edds for *We Face the Dawn: Oliver Hill, Spottswood Robinson, and the Legal Team That Dismantled Jim Crow* and Beth Macy for *Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company That Addicted America*.

**Jon Pineda** won the **2019 Emyl Jenkins Sexton Literary Award for Fiction** for his book *Let's No One Get Hurt*, described by the judges as a "lyrical and powerful coming-of-age novel exploring loss, abandonment, and how we fashion new versions of self when forced to."

Pineda is a poet, memoirist, and novelist. His novel *Apology* won the Milkweed National Fiction Prize and his poetry collection *Little Anodynes* received the 2016 Library of Virginia Literary Award for Poetry. He holds a BA from James Madison University and an MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University and currently directs the creative writing program at the College of William and Mary.

The other finalists for the fiction award were James A. McLaughlin for *Bearskin* and Tim Poland for *Yellow Stonefly*.

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**Michael Chitwood and the late Claudia Emerson tied for the Poetry Award prize this year.**

Chitwood's book *Search & Rescue* was praised by the judges for seeing "familiar subjects in fresh ways through clear diction and rich imagery that sounds just right to the ear and the mind."

Chitwood's poetry and fiction have appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly*, *Poetry*, *New Republic*, *Threepenny Review*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Field*, *Georgia Review*, and numerous other journals. His poetry collection *Spill* and his collection of poems about his native Appalachia, *Gospel Road Going*, each earned a Roanoke-Chowan Award for Poetry, while *Spill* and his book *Poor-Mouth Jubilee* were both finalists for *ForeWord Magazine's* Poetry Book of the Year.

Claudia Emerson's book *Claude Before Time and Space* "displays the final work of a master poet at the height of her craft," according to the judges.

Emerson was the Poet Laureate of Virginia from 2008 to 2010. Among her many honors are the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, which she received in 2006 for her book *Late Wife*, and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Library of Congress, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Virginia Commission for the Arts. In 2009, Emerson was honored as one of the Library's Virginia Women in History. She served as poetry editor for the *Greensboro Review* and contributing editor for *Shenandoah* and held teaching positions at Washington and Lee University, Randolph-Macon College, the University of Mary Washington, and Virginia Commonwealth University. She died on December 4, 2014, in Richmond.

The other finalists for the poetry prize were Bob Hicok for *Hold* and Erika Meitner for *Holy Moly Carry Me*.

The winners of the **People's Choice Awards** are *Tony's Wife* by **Adriana Trigiani** in the fiction category and *Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company That Addicted America* by **Beth Macy** in the nonfiction category. Winners are chosen by online voting.

The **Art in Literature: The Mary Lynn Kotz Award** went to **Mary Gabriel** for her book *Ninth Street Women: Lee Krasner, Elaine de Kooning, Grace Hartigan, Joan Mitchell, and Helen Frankenthaler – Five Painters and the Movement That Changed Modern Art*, which tells a remarkable and inspiring story of the power of art and artists in shaping not just postwar America, but the future as well. Presented by the Library and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Art in Literature Award recognizes an outstanding book published in the previous year that is written primarily in response to a work (or works) of art while also showing the highest literary quality as a creative or scholarly work. This unique award, established in 2013, is named in honor of Mary Lynn Kotz, author of the award-winning biography *Rauschenberg: Art and Life*.

The evening's featured speaker was **Brian Noyes**, owner of Red Truck Bakery, former *Washington Post* art director, and author the *Red Truck Bakery Cookbook*, offering 85 nostalgic recipes for cookies, cakes, pies, and more. *Saveur* magazine saluted the bakery in its Top 100 issue, *Travel + Leisure* called the Red Truck "one of the best small-town bakeries in America," and *Condé Nast Traveler* named it one of "America's 13 Sweetest Bakery Destinations." For more information, visit [redtruckbakery.com](http://redtruckbakery.com).

Next year's Literary Awards Celebration will be held on October 17, 2020.

**EVENT IMAGES AVAILABLE AT:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/dm63ihpz0tyaxew/AABvoRCuHek9H5tsFLCy2WhNa?dl=0>

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**October 19, 2019**