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For Immediate Release

TEXAS INSTITUTE OF LETTERS ANNOUNCES 2020 LITERARY AWARDS

The Texas Institute of Letters has announced 13 recipients of their Annual TIL Literary Awards. More than \$24,000 in award monies will be given to these writers at the annual TIL Awards Banquet, which is scheduled to take place March 28, 2020 at the Georgetown Sheraton.

The Texas Institute of Letters is a nonprofit Honor Society founded in 1936 to celebrate Texas literature and recognize distinctive literary achievement. The TIL's elected membership consists of the state's most respected writers—including winners of the Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award, and MacArthur "Genius" Grants.

The following authors have been named as award-winners: Oscar Cásares, Holly George-Warren, Ron Tyler, Bryan Washington, Naomi Shihab Nye, Lupe Mendez, Rubén Degollado, Rebecca Balcárcel, José M. Hernández, Skip Hollandsworth, Sergio Troncoso, and Cyrus Cassells. The titles of their winning works and awards appear below. Nationally recognized novelist, John Rechy, will also be recognized at the Institute's Annual Awards Banquet with the Lon Tinkle Lifetime Achievement Award for his entire body of work. TIL President Carmen Tafolla is especially proud of the "quality and the diversity of this year's award-winners, which range from teachers to journalists to an astronaut, reflecting some of the exciting variety in authors' experiences, styles, themes, and genres."

In addition, the TIL Awards Weekend March 27-28 will celebrate the induction of 19 new TIL members, which has inducted in the past such notables as Cormac McCarthy, Larry McMurtry, Sandra Cisneros, Américo Paredes, Vassar Miller, and Ntozake Shange. Being inducted this spring are poets Cyrus Cassells, Emmy Pérez, ire'ne lara silva, and Loretta Diane Walker; award-winning playwrights Octavio Solís and Regina Taylor (also a Golden Globe winner); novelists Glenn Blake, Kathleen Kent, and Natalia Sylvester; bestselling journalists/editors/publishers Nate Blakeslee, Dan Goodgame, and Dan Williams; award-winning songwriters James McMurtry and Robert Earl Keen; environmental writer and editor Andrew Sansom; scholars Andrew R. Graybill and Emma M. Pérez; children's and YA author J.B. (Jessica) Powers; and photo-historian of award-winning Southwestern cultural histories Bill Wright.

For more information on the TIL or on attending this spring's awards Banquet, contact president@texasinstituteofletters.org. Or see the TIL website at www.texasinstituteofletters.org.

TIL AWARD WINNERS:

Oscar Cásares: Winner of the Jesse H. Jones Award for Best Work of Fiction, for *Where We Come From*

Finalists:

- * Norma Elia Cantú, for *Cabañuelas*
- * Bryan Allen Carr, for *Opioid, Indiana*



Holly George-Warren: Winner of the Carr P. Collins Award for Best Book of Non-Fiction, for *Janis*

Finalists:

- *Jason DeParle, for *A Good Provider is One Who Leaves*
- *Steve Davis, for *The Essential J. Frank Dobie*



Ron Tyler: Winner of the Ramirez Family Award for Most Significant Scholarly Work, for *The Art of Texas*

Finalists:

- *Alan Governar, for *The Blues Come to Texas*
- *Kathryn O'Rourke, for *O'Neil Ford on Architecture*



Bryan Washington: Winner of The Sergio Troncoso Award for Best Work of First Fiction, for *LOT*

Finalist:

- *Kimberly King Parsons, for *Black Light*
- *Heather Harper Ellett, for *Ain't Nobody Nobody*



Naomi Shihab Nye: Winner of The Helen C. Smith Memorial Award for Best Book of Poetry, for *The Tiny Journalist*

Finalists:

*Chelsea Wagenaar, for *The Spinning Class*

*ire'ne lara silva, for *Cuicacalli*



Lupe Mendez: Winner of The John A. Robertson Award for Best First Book of Poetry, for *Why I Am Like Tequila*

Finalists:

*Deborah D.E.E.P. Mouton, for *Newsworthy*

*Jennifer Sperry Steinorth, for *A Wake with Nine Shades*



José M. Hernández: Winner of The Texas Institute of Letters Best Children's Picture Book, for *The Boy Who Touched the Stars / El niño que alcanzó las estrellas*

Finalists:

*Maria Illich, for *The Legend of the Ladybug*

*María Alma González Pérez, for *¡Todos a Celebrar! A Hispanic Customs & Traditions Alphabet Book*



Rebecca Balcárcel: Winner of the Jean Flynn Award for Best Middle Grade Book, for *The Other Half of Happy*

Finalists:

*Meredith Davis and Rebeka Uwitonze, for *Her Own Two Feet: A Rwandan Girl's Brave Fight to Walk*

*Mobi Warren, for *The Bee Maker*

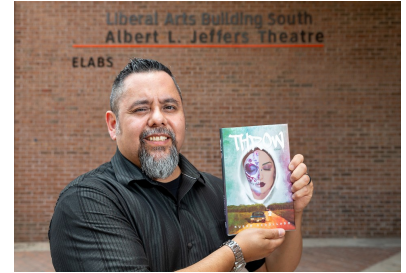


Rubén Degollado: Winner of Texas Institute of Letters Best Young Adult Book, for *Throw*

Finalists:

*Kathi Appelt, for *Angel Thieves*

*Vanessa Caraveo, for *Valiance*



Skip Hollandsworth: Winner of The Edwin “Bud” Shrake Award for Best Short Nonfiction, for *Sabika’s Story*

Finalists:

*Rod Davis, for *Mother Courage*

*Michael Hall, for *Crowd-sourcing Justice*



Sergio Troncoso: Winner of The Kay Cattarulla Award for Best Short Story, for *Rosary at the Border*

Finalists:

*William Cobb, for *The Wall*

*Rudy Ruiz, for *Limes*



Cyrus Cassells: Winner of The Soeurette Diehl Fraser Award for Best Translation of a Book, for *Still Life with Children: Selected Poems of Francesc Parcerisas*

Finalists:

*Julia Leverone, for *Fuel and Fire: Selected Poems of Francisco Urondo, 1956-1976*

*Friedrich Christian Delius, translated by Robert Cantrick, for *The Pope’s Left Hand*



John Rechy: Winner of the 2020 Lon Tinkle Life Achievement Award, Rechy is the author of fourteen novels, three plays, a memoir, numerous essays and literary reviews, and books which have become mainstays in the core curriculum of Chicano Literature, American Studies, and Gay Fiction. Called by Gore Vidal “One of the few original American writers of the last century”, the first novelist to receive PEN-USA-West's Lifetime Achievement Award, and winner of the 2018 Lambda Literary Award, Rechy published his first novel, *City of Night*, in 1963. It became a national bestseller, a groundbreaking departure in American literature. Larry McMurtry said of it, “Probably no novel published in this decade is so complete, so well held together, and so important as *City of Night*.” The Washington Post called it “one of the major books to be published since World War II.”

