

# Texas Institute of Letters



*April/May/June 2015*

**Texas Institute of Letters website:**

**<http://www.texasinstituteofletters.org/>**

**Nan Cuba and Kathleen Winter Are Chosen**

## **Dobie Paisano Fellowships Winners Named**

Winners of the Dobie Paisano Writing Fellowships for 2015 are Nana Cuba and Kathleen Winter. The fellowships, sponsored by The University of Texas at Austin and the Texas Institute of Letters, allow writers to live and work at the Paisano ranch, J. Frank Dobie's 254-acre retreat west of Austin.

Nan Cuba, recipient of the Jesse Jones Fellowship, is the author of *Body and Bread* (Engine Books, 2013), winner of the PEN Southwest Award in Fiction and the Texas Institute of Letters Steven Turner Award for Best Work of First Fiction; it was also listed as one of "Ten Titles to Pick Up Now" in *O, Oprah's Magazine*, was a "Summer Books" choice from *Huffington Post*, and the *San Antonio Express-News* called it one of the "Best Books of 2013."

Cuba co-edited *Art at our Doorstep: San Antonio Writers and Artists* (Trinity University Press, 2008), and published other work in such places as *Antioch Review*, *Harvard Review*, *Columbia*, and *Chicago Tribune's Printer's Row*. Her story, "Watching Alice Watch," was one

of the Million Writers Award Notable Stories (*storySouth*), and “When Horses Fly” won the George Nixon Creative Writing Award for Best Prose from the Conference of College Teachers of English.

As an investigative journalist, she reported on the causes of extraordinary violence in *LIFE*, *Third Coast*, and *D Magazine*. She received an artist residency at Fundación Valparaíso in Spain and was a finalist for the Humanities Texas Award for Individual Achievement. She is the founder and executive director emeritus of Gemini Ink, a nonprofit literary center ([www.geminiink.org](http://www.geminiink.org)), and teaches in the MA/MFA Program in Literature, Creative Writing, and Social Justice at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, where she is writer-in-residence.

Kathleen Winter, recipient of the Ralph Johnston Fellowship, is the author of *Nostalgia for the Criminal Past* (Elixir Press), winner of the Antivenom Poetry Prize and the 2013 Texas Institute of Letters Bob Bush Memorial Award for a first book of poems.

Her chapbook *Invisible Pictures* was published by Finishing Line Press. Winter has been awarded writing fellowships by the James Merrill House; the Brown Foundation at the Dora Maar House, Ménerbes, France; Cill Rialaig Retreat, Ireland; Vermont Studio Center and the Prague Summer Program. She was a winner of the City of Phoenix Seventh Avenue Streetscape Public Art Project competition, as well as the 2014 Rochelle Ratner Memorial Prize from Marsh Hawk Press. Winter’s poems have appeared in *Tin House*, *AGNI*, *Poetry London*, *Gulf Coast*, *The New Republic*, *The Cincinnati Review* and other journals and anthologies.

She graduated with honors from the University of California, Davis, School of Law, and holds an MA in English Literature from Boston College and BA in English from the University of Texas at Austin.

**Andrés Tijerina**

## **A Message from our TIL President**

The 2016 TIL Awards Banquet is scheduled for April 16 in Austin. Save the date. Plan to arrive on Friday to attend the welcoming reception and Poetry Awards ceremony on April 15 in the AT&T Executive Conference Center on the campus of the University of Texas, which will

provide our hotel accommodations for the weekend. The Saturday banquet will be held in the Grand Lobby of the Bullock State History Museum, just across the street.

Saturday morning will be a great time to tour the unique collections of the Harry Ransom Center and the Blanton Museum of Art, just two blocks from the AT&T Center, as well as the world-class Benson Latin American Collection and the state capitol.

Watch your e-mail in the next few weeks for the formal announcement of these events and venues, as well as the registration procedures for the banquet and hotel.

The April 16 weekend was carefully selected to minimize date conflicts with other literary organizations and events. We literally coordinated our planning with other organizations to help our TIL members optimize their scheduled professional events. Our TIL writers are the award winners and leaders in a variety of literary associations in Texas and the nation, but the TIL Awards are among the most prestigious. Which brings me to another point—the leadership of the Texas Institute of Letters.

TIL members are consistently producing the works, winning the awards, or appearing in literary magazines, blogs, and award programs. Whether it's our new Council member Ann Weisgarber or our TIL award winning novelist Elizabeth Crook, we're in the literary news. Our members like Karla Morton and Carmen Tafolla are represented among the Poets Laureate of Texas and its major cities. They are either cited by reviewers or they are writing the most significant reviews. This is not to boast about prizes so much as it is to appreciate the leadership of the writers who are inducted into the TIL. Our TIL founders held out the measure of great writers, that they should not stand around backslapping each other, but promote and recognize other writers of superior literature in Texas. I hope you agree that in our programs as well as in our own individual work, the Texas Institute of Letters is true to our founding charter.

**You've asked about it; you've demanded it, and now you've got it:**

## **Recent news about your fellow TIL members**

From down Houston way, here's what we hear from **Joe Holley**. Two new publications are forthcoming by him from Trinity University Press. One is entitled "500 Quotations about Texas,"

probably out next year, and the other is a collection of his “Native Texan” columns under the title, “Hometown Texas.” Congrats, Joe. You hit the ground running as soon as you got back to Texas from the Federal City, that place on the Potomac famous as “Hollywood for Ugly People.”

Still more news from Houston way: **Gwendolyn Zepeda** has just completed her two-year term as Houston's first poet laureate, tasked with representing Houston by creating excitement about poetry through outreach, programs, teaching, and written work. Her final acts as poet laureate were dedicating a poem for Mayor Annise Parker's last State of the City address and the book launch party for her latest book, *Monsters, Zombies and Addicts: Poems*. She is succeeded as Houston's poet laureate by Robin Davidson, associate professor of English at the University of Houston-Downtown.

The irrepressible **Kip Stratton** sends his “hats off” compliment to Peter Carlaftes and Kat George for including what Kip calls is his “humble composition of non-verse” entitled “Prose Poem VI” in the new issue of *Maintenant*, a journal of contemporary Dada writing and art published by Three Rooms Press. This is the third consecutive issue in these two have had the nerve to include works by Kip. And while we're on the subject of Kip, now hear this—his new book of poetry, *Ranchero Ford/Dying in Red Dirt Country*, will be published later this summer by Lamar University Press. He describes it as a continuation of themes he explored in his first book of poetry, *Dreaming Sam Peckinpah*.

**Dominic Smith's** fourth novel, *The Last Painting of Sara de Vos*, will be published by Sarah Crichton Books/Farrar, Straus & Giroux in April of 2016. It will also come out in the UK, Australia, Germany, and the Netherlands. The novel follows the story of the first woman artist to be admitted to the Guild of St. Luke in Holland and traces a single 17th-century Dutch painting through time, into the early 2000s.

**Carol Dawson** breathlessly writes that she has just finished and turned in (“yesterday”) a three-year book project entitled *Miles and Miles of Texas: A 100-Year History of the Texas Highway Department* to be published by Texas A&M University Press in October, 2016, in time for the agency's 2017 centennial anniversary. It'll have more than 300 photos, maps, and illustrations, and although it is billed as a centennial anniversary, it actually encompasses 400 years of a comprehensive history of Texas as seen through the prism of roads, transportation, and infrastructure. It'll be coffee table in size, and it is intended for general readership. “And what I have to say this morning,” Carol writes, “is... Whew!”

And here, dear reader, follows what we might consider the beginning of a new feature—classified ads. And why not? **Carolyn Banks** wants to sell this very significant book to help pay for flood damage to her home. Here's the description she gives, so give her a call or send her an email:

THIS BITTERLY BEAUTIFUL LAND

*Item Description: (Austin: Roger Beacham, 1972) First edition, Quotations about Texas chosen by editor Al Lowman (includes Abeza de Vaca, Sam Houston Stephen Austin, J. Frank Dobie, Tom Lea and others), each illustrated with a woodcut by renowned artist Barbara Whitehead. Folio, original tan cloth and printed paper label, very good copy, one of 275 copies printed by William Holman on handmade paper molded in England, signed by TIL members, artist Barbara Whitehead and editor Al Lowman. \$600 firm. Call Carolyn Banks, [512.284.1854](tel:512.284.1854) or email [cbanks@austin.rr.com](mailto:cbanks@austin.rr.com) for more information.*

**Lisa Sandlin** has a new book due in October from Cinco Puntos Press, *The Do-Right*. The cover is from a Keith Carter photo, "Blessing."

**Elizabeth Crook** found it "weirdly exhilarating" to have written a book she can't even read herself. She's referring to the Dutch edition of her TIL award-winning *Monday Monday*. The title has been changed to *Wie Wij Waren*--which Elizabeth learns through google is "Who We Were."

Our new member **James E. Crisp**, says "it ain't poetry," but he has just finished a piece that that will likely appear in 2016 as a short essay on the Texas Republic in the new International Supplement to the *Dictionary of American History*, and also a much more idiosyncratic article-length chapter on the development of a "Texian" identity during the decade-long existence of said Texas Republic. "This last essay was more challenging, but also a lot more fun to write," he says. "Right now I'm at work on a long-delayed biography and annotated memoir of teenaged German volunteer Herman Ehrenberg of the Texas revolutionary army -- a project that has killed at least two other historians, and left others bleeding. I fully intend to survive the ordeal, but my hair is getting grayer faster than Obama's."

**Shelby Hearon**, from way up in Vermont where she has been living for some time now, sounds a political note: "Well, my news is that I'm wild with Joy Bernie Sanders is running for president. We love him up here. They love him in Iowa."

**Gwendolyn Zepeda** has just completed her two-year term as Houston's first poet laureate, tasked with representing Houston by creating excitement about poetry through outreach, programs, teaching, and written work. Her final acts as poet laureate were dedicating a poem for Mayor Annise Parker's last State of the City address and the book launch party for her latest book, *Monsters, Zombies and Addicts: Poems*. She is succeeded by Robin Davidson, associate professor of English at the University of Houston-Downtown.

**Rico Ainslie** has two bits of good news: First is the establishment of an archive with all of his materials/papers at the Benson Collection at UT-Austin. Second, he has nearly completed his documentary film about a group of Vietnam war veterans entitled "The Mark of War." Here's the link to the trailer: [View the MARK OF WAR Trailer here \(https://vimeo.com/121571454\)](https://vimeo.com/121571454) Password: SBZ268 (ALL CAPS). And here's the link to the announcement about his archive:

<http://www.edb.utexas.edu/education/departments/edp/news/2015/ainslie-archive/>

**Marian Schwartz** writes: "You've heard of 'special jury mention' and 'honorable mention,' but here's a new one for you: "Hero of Translation," which I have been awarded for my translation of Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* (Yale University Press, 2014) as part of the Read Russia 2015 prize ceremony held on May 29th at the Grolier Club in New York. Also, I'm very happy to announce the recent publication by Deep Vellum Publishing (out of Dallas) of *Calligraphy Lesson: The Collected Stories*, by Mikhail Shishkin, about half of which is in my translation, including the title story."

**William Jack Sibley** went to Colorado in mid-June to slog away on the third novel in his "Texas Trilogy" (the other two: *Any Kind of Luck* and *Sighs Too Deep For Words*) which he somehow didn't realize until too late that he had actually committed to finishing! (TIL members are glad you're doing it!) "Meanwhile," as W.J. writes (Bill? Jack? William Jack? Let's go with W.J.) "as founder and co-coordinator of the annual tribute to J. Frank Dobie, DOBIE DICHOS ([http://www.georgeweststoryfest.org/dobie\\_dichos.html](http://www.georgeweststoryfest.org/dobie_dichos.html)), I'm very honored to welcome the following Texas authors to speak this year, Friday, November 6, 2015 in Oakville, TX — **Andrés Tijerina**, president of the TIL; **Carmen Tafolla**, Poet Laureate of Texas; Bruce Shackelford, Author and ANTIQUES ROADSHOW Appraiser and Mary Locke Crofts, Author and Dobie interpreter. Come join us for our Fifth Anniversary Celebration! Campfires, chili con carne, pan de campo, cerveza fria and the words of the South Texas master." "Any tale belongs to whoever best can tell it," J. Frank Dobie.

**Chip Dameron** has been promoting his recent collection of poems, *Waiting for an Etcher* (Lamar University Press), through readings around the Rio Grande Valley as well as at The Twig in San Antonio

and Malvern Books in Austin. In the fall, Wings Press will be bringing out another collection, *Drinking from the River: New and Collected Poems, 1975-2015*. In addition, a number of poems from his chapbook manuscript, *China Sketchbook: Poems*, have been published and can be viewed online at *Cha: An Asian Literary Journal*, *Poetry Pacific*, and *Eastlit*.

**Barbara Whitehead** has been designing books for TCU Press this spring and summer. Some interesting titles will get that wonderful Whitehead treatment: *Yours in Filial Regard: The Civil War Letters of a Texas Family*, edited by Kassia Waggoner and Adam Nemmers; *Weird Yet Strange: Notes from an Austin Music Artist* by Danny Garrett; and *The Garden of Eden: The Story of a Freedmen's Community in Texas* by Drew Sanders. Barbara is also working on an art cover for Judy Alter's ebook *The Gilded Cage*. "Busy as I can be!" she reports. And nothing new about that, Barbara!

**H.W. Brands** reports quite succinctly: "My book *Reagan: The Life* was published in May." Indeed it was, Bill! Congrats for yet another wonderful biography, 805 pages long and meriting wide attention and praise!

**Jim Hoggard**'s new collection of poems is entitled *Soon After Rain*, a Wings Press publication.

**Andrés Tijerina** is scheduled to present at the Austin History Center next month and at the Texas General Land Office's "Save Texas History Symposium" in November on the book he is co-editing with his wife Juanita Tijerina, *In the Shadow of the Dome: Slave Life in Austin, Texas*. He appeared earlier this month along with fellow TIL member H.W. Brands in the documentary for the HISTORY CHANNEL's "Texas Rising" TV series. He is the history consultant for the City of San Antonio in the historical preservation project to develop the Alamo Plaza as a historical park in the next twelve months.

**Christopher Cook** and Katka finally made it back to Texas. He writes: "I am now living in the Austin area, out near Lake Travis, where Katka & I finally found a house that fits us. It sits on a hill, so we escaped any of the May flooding. Sony Studios and the TNT network arrived at a deal for a TV adaptation of my novel *Robbers* and I am working on the pilot script. Singer/actor Tim McGraw will appear in it (assuming it goes into production)."

The late and beloved **Jean Flynn**'s books are being published as e-books and audio books, **Bob Flynn** tells us. The first e-book is a biography of Annie Oakley for young adults. The cover art was designed by her grandson Colin Bass.

**Ben Fountain** is in the middle of a two-year appointment at Texas State as the University Chair in Creative Writing. The film based on his novel *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk* is currently in production, with three-time Oscar winner Ang Lee as director, and a cast that includes Steve Martin, Kristin Stewart, Vin Diesel, Chris Tucker, and Garrett Hedlund. Release date is scheduled for November 2016. Ben, we gotta tell you (although it's not really news to anybody)—this movie will find a huge audience, just as your great novel did!

**Carmen Tafolla** was named by the Texas Legislature in May as State Poet Laureate of Texas 2015. (No surprise to any of us who know you and your work, Carmen!) During this coming school year, she plans to coordinate a project called Planting Poet Trees, to visit 20 of the poorest school districts in the state, bringing writing workshops, readings, and additions of poetry volumes to their school libraries for 3rd-12th graders who might never have had a Poet Laureate in their schools without this project. She also plans an anthology of Student Writings from Texas students, through the generous help of UTSA's College of Education & Human Development and Wings Press.

**Lonn Taylor** has a piece "After the Fire," excerpted from his book out of TCU Press, *Texas People, Texas Places: More Musings of the Rambling Boy*. He writes an inspirational piece about the people of Fort Davis during the fire of April 9, 2011, that destroyed 24 homes.

May was a good month for **Gerald Duff**. Two of his novels were published. One is a new edition of *Memphis Ribs*, which Gerald describes as his "attempt at a comic hardboiled mystery," first published in 1999 and now out from Brash Books. The other is *Playing Custer* from TCU Press, Gerald's take on the events on the Little Bighorn in 1876 and on the re-enactors who resurrect those moments each year. Details about both these novels can be found on his website, [www.geraldduff.com](http://www.geraldduff.com).

**C.W. Smith** held a launch of his new book, *A Throttled Peacock: Observations on the Old World*, at SMU's DeGolyer Library. The collection of essays featuring European settings was published by the DeGolyer Library and several selections were published in various magazines, including *Texas Monthly*.

**Larry D. Thomas's** *As If Light Actually Matters: New & Selected Poems* has recently been released by Texas Review Press of the Texas A&M University Press Consortium. It is the most definitive collection of Thomas's poetry to date, a 216-page volume containing selections from all nine of his book-length collections, selections from many of his chapbooks, and forty new poems not previously published in book form. Thomas also has poems in three recently published anthologies: *Down to the Dark River: An Anthology of Contemporary Poetry About the Mississippi River* (Louisiana Literature Press, edited by

Philip Kolin and Jack Bedell); *Goodbye Mexico: Poems of Remembrance* (Texas Review Press, edited by Sarah Cortez); and *Pushing the Envelope: Epistolary Poems* (Lamar University Press, edited by Jonas Zdanys).

**Jerry Craven's** novel *Women of Thunder* (TCU Press) has been named winner for best multicultural novel from a small press in 2014. It was also shortlisted for the Editor's Choice Prize. As director of Lamar University Press, Craven has published 10 books so far in 2015, including several by TIL members: **Chip Dameron** (poetry), **Terry Dalrymple** (short stories) and **Jim Sanderson** (a fiction-writing manual). Coming soon is a collection of poetry by TIL member **W.K. Stratton**.

**Roberto Bonazzi** reports that the publication of *Outside the Margins: Literary Commentaries*, will be out in September from Wings Press. It has been proofed at 300 pages, which will include an index, and it also include decades of critical reviews.

More big news from **Sergio Troncoso**. In 2014, the El Paso City Council voted unanimously to rename the Ysleta public library branch in his honor. Ysleta is the neighborhood in east El Paso where Sergio grew up along the border. The signage was recently changed, and on October 2, 2015, the official renaming ceremony will take place at the library. Sergio plans to establish a reading prize that will be administered by the library for local grade school kids and high school kids (two sets of prizes). "I want to encourage reading in my community," says Sergio. "I talked to the librarians, and they are excited about the prize. This will be cold hard cash to read! The librarians will determine how kids have 'read' a book (perhaps by having each write a synopsis and talk about the book). I am thinking \$200 first prize, \$150 second prize, \$100 third prize. We are still ironing out the details. Anyway, those are my ideas: I want that library honor to have meaning and relevance for reading."

**Dan Jenkins** is out with a new golf collection from Doubleday with a perfect title (which is one of Dan's usual specialties): *Unplayable Lies: The Only Golf Book You Will Ever Need*. He says, "It blends humor with history and virtually throbs with opinion." This is Dan's twenty-first published book, which includes the best-selling novels *Semi-Tough*, *Dead Solid Perfect*, *Baja Oklahoma*, and *You Gotta Play Hurt*. (See what I mean by saying his titles are so great?) In the recent past Dan has been inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame as one of only three writers who have been elected, and he has received the Red Smith Award from the Associated Press—the highest honor in his profession as well as the PEN Lifetime Achievement Award for Literary Sportswriting.

"I could go on," Dan says, "but I'm already embarrassed." Okay, we'll say it, Dan—you're only One of the great sports writers who ever lived! Seriously.

Good news about **Rolando Hinojosa**. His book, *Claros varones de Belken / Fair Gentlemen of Belken County*, will be available again in a bilingual edition with publication on September 30. It's the fourth book in the acclaimed Klail City Death Trip Series. This new edition will include both the English and Spanish versions rendered by the author.

**Andrew Geyer's** short story "Fingers" won the 2015 Spur Award for Best Short Fiction from the Western Writers of America. This is Geyer's second Spur Award win. "Fingers" is the opening story in the composite anthology *Texas 5X5* (Geyer's co-authors are Jerry Craven, Jan Seale, Terry Dalrymple, and Kristin vanNamen) which has just been named a finalist for the *Foreword Magazine* Book of the Year Award in the Short Stories category.

Out New Mexico way, **David Farmer** is co-curating a multi-venue set of exhibitions for Taos museums that will document the history of printmaking in Taos Valley. Titled *Pressing Through Time – 150 Years of Printmaking in Taos*, the show begins opening around town on September 19 and runs into January. Part of the story will include Peter Moran's visits to Taos in the 1880s, sketches from which formed the basis of etchings made back in Philadelphia. There are Texas connections, too, with Alexandre Hogue teaching and making lithographs in Taos in the 1930s. Numerous women in The Texas Printmakers organization also came to Taos in summers, taking home sketches that formed the basis for notable prints. David is currently writing blogs about Taos printmakers and their presses that will soon appear on the new web site: <http://pressingthroughtime.com>.

**Steven Weinberg** has a new book out on the history of science, "To Explain the World," published this year in the US by HarperCollins and in the UK by Allen Lane. It has gotten numerous flattering reviews, such as in the New York Times ("a rich, meaningful tale about the origin of science"), *tue Times Literary Supplement* ("a magnificent contribution to the history and philosophy of science") and the *Independent of London* ("This is a great book, a necessary book for our time."). It was included as an "editor's choice" by the New York Times Book Review, featured at the World Science Festival in New York and in a TakeAway broadcast on NPR, and will be a featured book at the Texas Book Festival this fall.

From **Don Graham** comes this interesting request. He'd "love to hear" from any members who might have visited the set of *GIANT* at Marfa during June and the first two weeks of July only sixty years ago. Billy Lee Brammer and Bryan Woolley both wrote about their experiences

there. “Perhaps others of the TIL membership have memories that I don’t know about or—gasp—have forgotten. Or any other salient memories, etc., from that era.”

**Mark Busby** was the featured author for the launch of the 2015 volume of *The Mayo Review* at Texas A&M University-Commerce on April 23. As part of the launch, Mark conducted a morning writing workshop; presented a paper in the afternoon entitled “The Scholar as Novelist, the Novelist as Scholar”; and did a reading from his novel *Cedar Crossing* in the evening. Two of his stories—“Bring Lyndon Home” and “Can’t Help But Wonder Where We’re Bound”—are featured in the new volume of *The Mayo Review*.

Congrats to **B.H. (Pete) Fairchild** out California way: His selected and new poems, *The Blue Buick* (W.W.Norton, 2014), was one of two books of poetry selected for the ALA/RUSA Notable Books of the Year list. It also received the Paterson Poetry Prize.

Summer and springtime have brought lots of awards and publication news about **Sarah Cortez**, who seems to be everywhere these days! Her summary: “Poetry publication in the online ‘Life and Legends,’ with forthcoming publication in the following anthologies: Mutabilis Press’s *Houston Nature*, Lamar University’s *Texas Weather*, and Boston College’s journal, *Post Road*. One of my essays on policing along with two poems was recently published in *Her Texas* (Wings Press). My essay, ‘Fistfuls of Candy,’ took honorable mention in the Tucson Book Festival Literary Awards, and another memoir essay is slated for publication in Lima, Peru. I was honored to participate in a panel of Catholic poets at AWP in Minneapolis before a standing-room-only crowd, and then also to participate in a panel on “Substance as Style: What Noir Writing Can Teach Us About Literary Form.” The anthology I edited for Texas Review Press, *Goodbye, Mexico: Poems of Remembrance*, was released in January and is already short-listed for the International Latino Book Awards. I was awarded a poetry scholarship for ‘Glen East,’ sponsored by *Image Journal*, in summer 2015.”

Okay, here’s how *Booklist* describes the very prolific **Joe R. Lansdale**’s latest novel, *Paradise Sky*. “[He] taps into the legends and history of the Wild West in his new novel *Paradise Sky* (Mulholland Books/Little, Brown; 2015), based on the true story of African-American cowboy Nat Love, famously known by his nickname: Deadwood Dick. Often compared to Mark Twain, and praised for his writings about Texas, Joe Lansdale’s latest novel shows just why he is the “*Bard of East Texas*.”

News from Jesse—**Jesse Sublett**, that is: “The release of my new true crime book, *1960s Austin Gangsters: Organized Crime that Rocked the Capital*, got off to a great start with an SRO crowd at

BookPeople on March 9. Within two weeks, it was the top the top selling nonfiction title in Austin. Now in its second printing, we're still having lots of fun, getting great support. Next up on my Texas tour is Barnes & Noble Sunset Valley, July 9, 3 PM, an event they're calling "#ThrowBackThursday, #GetPopCulture, but I like to add the hashtag #ThugBackThursday. I'll be doing a presentation at the Austin History Center Sunday, Sept. 20 (Museum Day). October 8 I'm playing and speaking at the Dallas Historical Society. At every event I meet people who knew the crooks and cops in my book when they were in school, playing college football, or in prison. The Overton Gang truly reached out and "touched" a whole lot of people out there."

**Karla K. Morton**'s latest book, *Constant State of Leaping*, was selected not only as the first runner-up Eric Hoffer Award winner in the poetry category, but also as a Montaigne Medal award finalist, a special part of the Eric Hoffer Award. Each year, the Eric Hoffer Award for books presents the Montaigne Medal to the most thought-provoking books, as an additional distinction beneath the Eric Hoffer Award umbrella. The books selected either illuminate, progress or redirect thought. The Montaigne Medal is given in honour of the great French philosopher Michel de Montaigne, who influenced people such as William Shakespeare, Rene Descartes, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Friedrich Neitzsche, Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Eric Hoffer.

**Nicolás Kanellos** sends a couple of items. Earlier this year Tejas Foco of the National Association of Chicana/Chicano Studies presented him with a Lifetime Achievement Award. And he was editor for special issues of *Centro* and *Review*, which included an interview with him, "Nicolás Kanellos: el guardian de pasados literarios," appearing in Jesús Ramos' *Thinking en Español: Interviews with Critics of Chicana/o Literature*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2014. 85-99.

[\*\*RETURN HOME\*\*](#)