

Texas Institute of Letters

July/August/September 2009

Judges selected for TIL 2009 literary contests

Awards for the winners of the 2009 Texas Institute of Letter's literary contests will be presented with prizes totaling \$20,450 at the organization's spring 2010 meeting to be held April 30-May 1 in Austin at the Austin Radisson Hotel.

The amount is \$1,000 less than the previous year because the Sourette⁴ Diehl Fraser Award for Best Translation of a Book will not be presented until the 2011 meeting for books published in 2009 and 2010.

Submissions for this year's contest for books published in 2009 must be sent directly to each member of the appropriate committee at the address listed below and must be postmarked no later than Jan. 9, 2010. Each entry must bear the words, "For TIL Award," on the outside of the container or envelope. The name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address for each entrant must be included with the entry. Also included must be a statement of eligibility confirming that the entrant was born in Texas or lived in Texas for at least two consecutive years at some time. A work whose subject matter substantially concerns Texas is also eligible.

Following are the addresses for each of the contests:

Jesse H. Jones Award for Best Work of Fiction (\$6,000) and Steven Turner Award for Best Work of First Fiction (\$1,000):

Emily Fox Gordon, chair, 2425 Dryden Road, Houston, TX 77030

Tom Dodge, 302 Stiles Dr., Midlothian, TX 76065

Chitra Divakaruni, English Dept., Roy Cullen Building, University of Houston Main Campus, Houston, TX 77204.

Carr P. Collins Award for Best Book of Non-fiction (\$5,000):

Richard Holland, chair, 309 Moore Blvd., Austin, TX 78705

Darwin Payne, 9021 Gunnison Dr., Dallas, TX 75231

Robert Flynn, 101 Cliffside Dr., Shavano Park, TX 78231.

TIL Award for Most Significant Scholarly Book (\$2,500):

T. Lindsay Baker, chair, P.O. Box 507, Rio Vista, TX 76093

James M. Smallwood, 1413 S. Lindsay, Gainesville, TX 76240

Gregg Cantrell, Dept. of History, Texas Christian University, 302 Reed Hall, 2800 S. University Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76129.

Helen C. Smith Memorial Award for Best Book of Poetry (\$1,200):

Frances Neidhardt, chair, 321 N. Grand Ave., Sherman, TX 75090

Isabel Nathaniel, 18040 Midway Rd., #215, Dallas, TX 75287

Kurt Heinzelman, 1 University Station B5000, University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712.

Kay Cattarulla Award for Best Short Story:

Betty Wiesepape, chair, 1706 N. Cheyenne, Richardson, TX 75080

Jennifer Key, Dept. of English, Southern Methodist University, P.O. Box 750435, Dallas, TX 75275

Carol Dawson, 4010 Crescent Dr., Austin, TX 78722.

O. Henry Award for Magazine Journalism:

Kip Stratton, chair, P.O.Box 609, Round Rock, TX 78680

Andrew Hudgins, 1380 Stoneygate Lane, Columbus, OH 43221-1566

Joe Holley, 1740 Q Street NW, #101, Washington, D.C. 20009.

Stanley Walker Award for Best Work of Newspaper Journalism Appearing in Newspaper or Sunday Supplement (\$1,000):

Mike Cox, chair, 3301 Big Bend Dr., Austin, TX 78731

Geoff Rips, 2000 Kenwood Ave., Austin, TX 78704

Cyndi Hughes, Writers' League of Texas, 611 S. Congress Ave., Ste. 130, Austin, TX 78704.

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Austin Public Library Friends Foundation Awards for Best Children's Book (\$500) and Best Young Adult Book (\$500):

Naomi Nye, chair, 806 South Main Ave., San Antonio, TX 78204-1422

Marshall Terry, 2717 Lovers Lane, Dallas, TX 75225

Bobbi Samuels, #5 Waverly Court, Houston, TX 77005.

Fred Whitehead Award for Best Design of a Trade Book (\$750):

Fritz Lanham, chair, P.O. Box 801182, Houston, TX 77280

H. Palmer Hall, Box AL, 1 Camino Santa Maria St., Mary's University, San Antonio, TX 78228

Betty Osborne, 2106 Meadowbrook Drive, Austin, TX 78703.

Sourette Diehl Fraser Award for Best Translation of a Book (\$1,000): Not to be awarded until 2011 for books published in 2009 and 2010.

News about TIL's

2010 annual meeting

President William V. Davis has completed early plans for TIL's 2010 annual meeting to be held in Austin on April 30-May 1. He has secured rooms at the Austin Radisson Hotel on the banks of the Colorado River (Town Lake at that point) at a special rate of \$130 per night plus tax.

At that meeting new members will be inducted and awards will be presented for the best works of 2009.

News of Members and Others . . .

News about possible changes for the Dobie Paisano Ranch has finally reached the major media. The Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009, edition of the *Dallas Morning News* has a lengthy front-page article by the newspaper's environmental writer, Randy Lee Loftis, under the headline, "Refuge for writers threatened." The article describes a plan by the UT System which lists Paisano as one of nine possible places to relocate an ecological research lab now on the northeast bank of Lady Bird Lake in Austin. **Michael Adams** and **Fran Vick** are quoted in the article, which is accompanied by three photographs on a full inside page. Featured especially is Sandra Cisneros, who describes how her six-month stay at Paisano some twenty-four years ago helped her succeed as a novelist, poet, and short-story writer. You can read the story at the *Dallas Morning News* site or by "googling" Dobie-Paisano Ranch.

After thirty years at the TCU Press (and director since 1987), **Judy Alter** has announced her retirement. She reminisced about her days as director and about the remarkable changes in the publishing business in her recent (July 11) column in the *Dallas Morning News*. Judy has been a champion of Texas authors and of Texas literature. Well done, Judy.

Rick Bass has done it again--this time a book about the Montana that has become his adopted home since he left Texas twenty-two years ago and his career as a petroleum engineer. The stories, essays, novels, and nonfiction books that followed have earned him lasting fame as an interpreter and lover of nature and the relationship between landscape and humanity. His new book is entitled *The Wild Marsh: Four Seasons at Home in Montana* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). It's a memoir in which he describes "things that are gone-away, or going-away."

We're always reminded of the good things happening at Texas State University when its *Texas Books in Review* comes in the mail, as it did this past week. In it, of course, we find book reviews of works about Texas such as one finds nowhere else. TIL members are well represented in this spring 2009 issue, starting with the introductory column co-authored by **Mark Busby** with Dick Heaberlin, and continuing with book reviews by **Busby**, **Steven L. Davis**, **Clay Reynolds**, and others about such books as *Literary Dallas* (TCU Press), edited by **Fran Vick**, and **Carmen Tafolla's** *The Holy Tortilla and a Pot of Beans: A Feast of Short Fiction* (Wings Press).

Our new member **Mike Cochran** has been busy. He's completing his final edit on a book on Doyle

Brunson. Who he? No less than “The Godfather of Poker,” or so described as such in poker books and magazines, and that’s the title of Mike’s book, due out this fall. Brunson grew up on a farm near Sweetwater, and became a basketball and track star at Hardin-Simmons in the mid-50s before entering the dangerous world of high-stakes poker games. Mike says he’s on TV virtually every day on the increasingly popular poker shows. His key days were in the 50s, 60s, and 70s, when he played with people such as Amarillo Slim and Sailor Roberts on the dangerous and illegal “Texas Circuit.”

Here’s the latest on **Jeff Guinn** and his sensational biography of Bonnie and Clyde, *Go Down Together*. It was a main selection of the Book of the Month Club and the History Book Club, and it has been featured in *USA Today* and on CBS Sunday Morning among other things. Jeff also did 90 minutes on C-SPAN. And he’s not through yet. His current book project is for Simon & Schuster and is tentatively titled *The Last Gunfight*, about Tombstone and the O.K. Corral. Stay tuned.

We knew someone would do this soon, and who better than **Bill Minutaglio**—a biography of Molly Ivins. It’ll be released in October as *Molly Ivins: A Rebel Life* (PublicAffairs/Perseus Book Group), The author-historian Douglas Brinkley describes the tome this way: “Elegantly bottled up her enduring charm in this winner of a book. A real page-turning hoot.” This book is co-written with W. Michael Smith, who served as Molly’s researcher for six years. And wait, there’s more. This coming spring UT Press will publish Bill’s book, *In Search of The Blues: A Journey To The Soul of Black Texas*, a collection of stories he has done over the last 30 years. That book will be published as part of the Southwestern Writers Collection Series.

Allen Wier is still winning praise for his 2006 epic novel about Texas entitled *Tejano* (SMU Press). Last November he won the John Dos Passos Prize for Literature, awarded by Longwood University. Allen is a professor at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and he is another of those fine writers who profited from a Dobie-Paisano Fellowship.

Fame, thou art fleeting. As most members know, our genial vice president, **John Miller Morris**, has authored a spectacular book entitled *Taming the Land: The Lost Postcard Photographs of the Texas High Plains*, published this year by Texas A&M Press. Recently, the

Dallas Morning News had a brief review of this “intriguing” book. Slight problem: the reviewer identified Morris as “James” Miller Morris.

Speaking of our officers, our treasurer, **James Hoggard**, has two new books. One is *Triangles of Light: The Edward Hopper Poems*, based on paintings and etchings by Edward Hopper and told in his contrarian voice. This one is published by **Bryce Milligan**’s Wings Press, San Antonio. Jim’s second book is *Ashes in Love: Translations of Poems by Oscar Hahn*, published by Host Publications (Austin and New York).

Bill Sloan’s new account of the Korean war, *The Darkest Summer: Pusan and Inchon, 1950, The Battles That Saved South Korea—and the Marines—From Extinction*, will be released this November by Simon & Schuster. Among others, Bill’s military histories include *Brotherhood of Heroes* and *The Ultimate Battle*.

Mike Cox’s second volume of his history of the Texas Rangers has an August release. *Time of the Rangers: Texas Rangers, From 1900 to the Present* (Forge) follows his first volume, *The Texas Rangers: Wearing the Cinco Peso, 1821-1900*.

TIL OFFICERS

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TIL COUNCILORS

T. Lindsay Baker, Rio Vista, first term ends April 2011
Ty Cashion, Huntsville, first term ends April 2010
Emily Fox Gordon, Houston, first term ends April 2011
Fritz Lanham, Houston, second term ends April 2011
Frances Neidhardt, Sherman, first term ends April 2010
Jan Seale, McAllen, second term ends April 2011
W.K. (Kip) Stratton, Round Rock, 1st term ends April 2010
Andres Tijerina, Austin, first term ends in April 2010

Special Offer for TIL Members

Numbered and signed prints of Glenn Whitebread's beautiful nighttime painting of Paisano are being offered to TIL members for \$50. They are 14 x 19 inches in size, and, of course, are intended for framing. These prints are given each year to Paisano Fellows. To purchase a print send a check for \$50, payable to Texas Institute of Letters, c/o Darwin Payne, 9021 Gunnison Dr., Dallas, TX 75231, and it will be mailed to you in a secure mailer.



Paisano, Full Moon

Website: <http://texasinstituteofletters.org/>

Please send news items, changes of address to Darwin Payne at dpayne@smu.edu.