



Support Poetry Flash's year-round literary programs, events, and publishing.
Donate Today!



about
advertise
give
guidelines
contact
mailing list

JANUARY 21-23

BERKELEY POETRY FESTIVAL

Presented on Zoom & Facebook Live:
Berkeley Poetry Festival page
berkeleypoetryfestival.com

Celebrating Lifetime Achievement Awardee
Genny Lim

- PROGRAMS**
- Poetry Flash Reading Series
 - 2021 Reading Series
 - 2020 Reading Series
 - 2019 Reading Series
 - 2018 Reading Series
 - 2017 Reading Series
 - 2016 Reading Series
 - 2015 Reading Series
 - 2014 Reading Series
 - 2013 Reading Series
 - 2012 Reading Series
 - 2011 Reading Series
 - Poetry Flash Workshop
 - Watershed Environmental Poetry Festival
 - Broadside Donation
 - 2021 Watershed Festival Info
 - 2019 Watershed Festival Info
 - 2018 Watershed Festival Info
 - 2017 Watershed Festival Info
 - 2016 Watershed Festival Info
 - 2015 Watershed Festival Info
 - 2015 Watershed Feature Story
 - 2014 Watershed Festival Info
 - 2013 Watershed Festival Info
 - 2013 Watershed Feature Story
 - 2012 Watershed Festival Info
 - 2012 Watershed Feature Story
 - 2011 Watershed Festival Info
 - 2011 Watershed Feature Story
 - 2010 Watershed Slideshow
 - Northern California Book Awards (NCBA) Guidelines
 - NCBA Recipients
 - 2021 NCBA
 - 2020 NCBA
 - 2019 NCBA
 - 2018 NCBA
 - 2017 NCBA
 - 2016 NCBA
 - 2015 NCBA
 - 2014 NCBA
 - 2013 NCBA
 - 2012 NCBA
 - 2011 NCBA
- About Poetry Flash

POETRY FLASH READING SERIES

40th Annual Northern California Book Awards

Celebrating books published by Northern California authors and California literary translators in 2020

Sunday, July 11, 2021 • 2:00 pm PDT

[press release](#)

Celebration: Northern California Book Awards

Celebrate Northern California's vibrant literary scene on Sunday, July 11, 2021, 2:00 pm Pacific Time, when the 40th annual Northern California Book Awards will recognize the best published works of 2020 by Northern California authors and California literary translators.

The **NCBAs** are presented by Northern California Book Reviewers, Poetry Flash, and San Francisco Public Library, with our community partners Mechanics' Institute Library, Women's National Book Association-San Francisco Chapter, and Pen West.

This year, and from now on, the **California Translation Awards in Poetry and Prose** will honor works of translation by translators across California. Translation nominees named here include literary translators based all over the Golden State, including North Bay, Oakland, San Francisco, Monterey, Santa Barbara, and San Diego areas.

The Fred Cody Award for Lifetime Achievement and Service will be presented to a distinguished member of the Northern Californian literary community; the award carries a \$1,000 honorarium. The winning authors will briefly present their nominated books. Nominated books will be available for online purchase during the event.

Northern California reviewers and editors, members of Northern California Book Reviewers, select the awards. All of the nominated books, the **NCBR Recommended Reading List of Books Published in 2020**, will be acknowledged and celebrated at the ceremony.

NCBA 2021 Online Bookstore: The featured and nominated books are available for purchase here, hosted by City Lights Books:
<https://bookshop.org/lists/northern-california-book-awards-2021>
 Bookshop.org is an online bookstore that financially supports local independent bookstores and gives back to the book community.

2021 Awards Program

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Children's Literature: Younger Readers
The Good Song, Alexandria Giardino, illustrated by Penelope Dullaghan, Cameron

from Poetic Matrix Press
 Whispers of Krip Love Shout of Krip Revolution by Lateef McLeod
www.poeticmatrix.com/title/whispers-of-krip-love

NAMING THE LOST: THE FRESNO POETS

Interviews & Essays edited by Christopher Buckley

Birds of San Pancho and Other Poems of Place

LUCILLE LANG DAY

The Robinson Jeffers Tor House 2022 Prize for Poetry

\$1,000 1st Prize Award
 Final Judge: Forrest Gander

Postmark deadline for submissions: March 15, 2022
www.torhouse.org

ROBERT SWARD
 PEN OAKLAND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
 Poet Laureate of Santa Cruz County, 2016-2018

All That I Have Not Made
 POEMS 1957-2020

"Robert Sward proves himself to be one of this country's finest poets—and surely the one most neglected."

Kids ([read review](#))

You Matter, Christian Robinson, Atheneum Books for Young Readers ([read review](#))
A Book for Escargot, Dashka Slater, illustrated by Sydney Hanson, Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers ([read review](#)) **WINNER**

Children's Literature: Middle Grade

Orphan Eleven, Gennifer Choldenko, Wendy Lamb Books ([read review](#))
The Lonely Heart of Maybelle Lane, Kate O'Shaughnessy, Knopf Books for Young Readers ([read review](#))
Land of the Cranes, Aida Salazar, Scholastic Press ([read review](#)) **WINNER**

Children's Literature: Young Adult

We Are Not Free, Traci Chee, HMH Books for Young Readers ([read review](#))
Dark and Deepest Red, Anna-Marie McLemore, Feiwel & Friends ([read review](#))
The Mermaid, the Witch, and the Sea, Maggie Tokuda-Hall, Candlewick ([read review](#)) **WINNER**

CALIFORNIA TRANSLATION

California Translation in Poetry

Plagios/Plagiarisms, Ulalume González de León, translated by Terry Ehret, John Johnson, and Nancy J. Morales, from the Spanish, Sixteen Rivers Press ([read review](#)) **WINNER**
Etudes: A Rilke Recital, Rainer Maria Rilke, translated by Art Beck, from the German, Shanti Arts Publishing ([read review](#))
My Village: Selected Poems 1972-2014, Wu Sheng, translated by John Balcom, from the Chinese, Zephyr Press ([read review](#))

California Translation in Prose

Heaven and Earth, Paolo Giordano, translated by Anne Milano Appel, from the Italian, Pamela Dorman Books/Viking ([read review](#))
Surrender, Ray Loriga, translated by Carolina De Robertis, from the Spanish, Mariner Books ([read review](#)) **WINNER**
Bezoar and Other Unsettling Stories, Guadalupe Nettel, translated by Suzanne Jill Levine, from the Spanish, Seven Stories Press ([read review](#))
Savage Kiss, Roberto Saviano, translated by Antony Shugaar, from the Italian, Farrar, Straus and Giroux ([read review](#))
Nine Moons, Gabriela Wiener, translated by Jessica Powell, from the Spanish, Restless Books ([read review](#))

GENERAL NONFICTION

Everything She Touched: The Life of Ruth Asawa, Marilyn Chase, Chronicle Books ([read review](#))
Fire in Paradise: An American Tragedy, Alastair Gee and Dani Anguiano, W.W. Norton ([read review](#))
The Forests of California: A California Field Atlas, Obi Kaufmann, Heyday ([read review](#))
American Harvest: God, Country, and Farming in the Heartland, Marie Mutsuki Mockett, Graywolf Press ([read review](#)) **WINNER**
Empire of Resentment: Populism's Toxic Embrace of Nationalism, Lawrence Rosenthal, The New Press ([read review](#))

CREATIVE NONFICTION

Try to Get Lost: Essays on Travel and Place, Joan Frank, University of New Mexico Press ([read review](#))
Mobile Home: A Memoir in Essays, Megan Harlan, The University of Georgia Press ([read review](#))
Synthesizing Gravity: Selected Prose, Kay Ryan, Grove Press ([read review](#))
Recollections of My Nonexistence: A Memoir, Rebecca Solnit, Viking ([read review](#)) **WINNER**
Scratched: A Memoir of Perfectionism, Elizabeth Tallent, Harper ([read review](#))

NCBR GROUNDBREAKER AWARD



Tongo Eisen-Martin, San Francisco Poet Laureate, 2021
Teacher and Activist

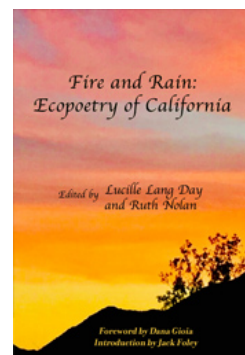
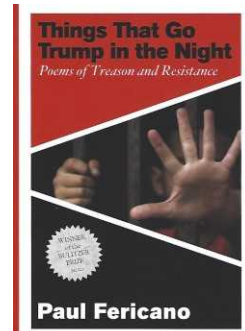
Heaven Is All Goodbyes: Pocket Poets No. 61, City Lights Books, 2017

POETRY

Indigo, Ellen Bass, Copper Canyon Press ([read review](#))
Piñata Theory, Alan Chazaro, Black Lawrence Press ([read review](#))
Spring and a Thousand Years (Unabridged), Judy Halebsky, University of Arkansas Press ([read review](#))
Bonfire Opera, Danusha Laméris, University of Pittsburgh Press ([read review](#)) **WINNER**
Storage Unit for the Spirit House, Maw Shein Win, Omnidawn ([read review](#))
Transformer, Kathleen Winter, The Word Works ([read review](#))

FICTION

Tell Me, Signora, Ann Harleman, Elixir Press ([read review](#))
The Prince of Mourful Thoughts and Other Stories, Caroline Kim, University of Pittsburgh Press ([read review](#))
A Registry of My Passage upon the Earth, Daniel Mason, Little, Brown and Company ([read review](#)) **WINNER**
Only the River, Anne Raeff, Counterpoint ([read review](#))



Tending the Fire

Native Voices & Portraits



UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO PRESS

A Symphony for Broken Instruments

Selected & Unpublished Poems
373 Pages, the best full collection



Marin Poetry Center

Four Way Books

THE NEW BLACK BART POETRY SOCIETY
PAROLE

ZEITGEIST-PRESS

FRED CODY AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT & SERVICE



Photo by Carlos Puma.

Juan Felipe Herrera, U.S. Poet Laureate, 2015-2017
Teacher and Activist
Every Day We Get More Illegal, City Lights Books, 2020

The winners in each category will be announced at the online awards ceremony, July 11, 2021.

Free and open to the public.

History of the Northern California Book Awards

Since 1981, the Northern California Book Reviewers, a volunteer group of book reviewers and book review editors, have honored the work of Northern California authors. One of the group's founders was Fred Cody, proprietor of the famed independent bookstore in Berkeley. The NCBR created an award in his name to honor a lifetime of achievements and distinguished service to the literary community. The Fred Cody Award for lifetime achievement is presented every year to a member of the literary community. Previous recipients include Daniel Ellsberg, Sandra M. Gilbert, Jack Hirschman, Judy Grahn, Susan Griffin, Willis Barnstone, Adam Hochschild, Kay Ryan, Michael Pollan, Al Young, Andrew Hoyem, Diane di Prima, Orville Schell, Philip Levine, Ronald Takaki, Francisco X. Alarcón, Carolyn Kizer, Ishmael Reed, Maxine Hong Kingston, Robert Hass, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Malcolm Margolin, Adrienne Rich, Wallace Stegner, Kay Boyle, William Everson, Alice Walker, Gary Snyder, Jessica Mitford, Tillie Olsen, M.F.K. Fisher, Robert Duncan, Nancy J. Peters, and Tamim Ansary.

To support or join the Northern California Book Reviewers: contact Joyce Jenkins, NCBR chair, at NCBR@poetryflash.org

The Northern California Book Awards would not exist without the support of these Northern California Book Reviewers members: Children's Literature: Alessandra Argüello, Amy Glynn, Deborah Kelson, Summer Laurie, Mary Mackey, Richard Mandracho, Katherine Megna. • Translation: Sharon Coleman, Susan Kelly-DeWitt, Lee Rossi, Barbara Paschke. • General Nonfiction: Fran Claggett-Holland, Susan E. Gunter, James LeCuyer. • Creative Nonfiction: Grace Feuerverger, Ann Harleman, Paul Skenazy, Roberta Werdinger. • Poetry: Sharon Coleman, Joyce Jenkins, Eileen Malone, Linda Michel-Cassidy, Frances Phillips, David Roderick, Susan Terris. • Fiction: Eileen Malone, Toni Piccinini, Steven Simmons. • The entire NCBR membership, including Rebecca Foust, Stephen Kessler, Jonah Raskin, Wanda Sabir, Olivia Sears, and more may vote on the Fred Cody and NCBR Awards.

Thanks to Poetry Flash: Kirsten Avilla • Stephen Bunza • Catalina Cariaga • Fred Dodsworth • Rosalinda Monroy • Richard Silberg • Amy Wu

