

# NCBA

The Northern California Book Reviewers'

## Northern California Book Awards

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**43rd ANNUAL  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BOOK AWARDS  
Saturday, September 7, 2024, 2:00 pm  
Koret Auditorium  
San Francisco Main Library  
100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA**

### **WINNERS ANNOUNCED!**

Northern California's vibrant literary scene celebrated **Saturday, September 7, 2024, 2:00pm, Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Main Library, Civic Center, San Francisco**, when the **43rd annual Northern California Book Awards** recognized published works of 2023 by Northern California authors and California translators, selected by the **Northern California Book Reviewers**, and presented by **Poetry Flash** and the **San Francisco Public Library**, with our community partners **Mechanics' Institute Library** and **Women's National Book Association-San Francisco Chapter**. The event is free and open to the public.

**Winning authors** accepted their awards and briefly presented remarks on their books. Nominated and honored books were available for sale and signing. A **reception** followed in the SFPL's Latino/Hispanic Community Room.

The **Fred Cody Award for Lifetime Achievement and Service** is presented for lifetime achievement and distinguished service to the literary community. The **NCBA Recognition Award** is presented to a book or literary project that falls outside of NCBA categories. The **NCBA Groundbreaker Award** is presented to pioneering and innovative works. The **California Translation Awards in Poetry and Prose** honor works of translation by translators who live anywhere in California.

Northern California reviewers and editors, members of **Northern California Book Reviewers**, select the awards. Membership is open to eligible Northern California reviewers and editors. All of the nominated books, the Recommended Reading List, will be acknowledged and celebrated at the ceremony. Jurors' statements by Northern California Book Reviewers will be available in the event program and on the NCBA page at Poetryflash.org.

**The complete list of honorees are posted on [poetryflash.org/programs/?p=ncba\\_2024](https://poetryflash.org/programs/?p=ncba_2024). The categories are: Fiction, Poetry, Creative Nonfiction, General Nonfiction, Translation, and Children's Literature.**

#### **FRED CODY AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT & SERVICE**

Jane Hirshfield, poet, essayist, and "one of American poetry's central spokespersons for the biosphere"  
*The Asking: New and Selected Poems*, Knopf

## **NCBA GROUNDBREAKER AWARD**

Transit Books (co-publishers Ashley Nelson Levy and Adam Z. Levy)

A nonprofit publisher of international and American literature, committed to the discovery and promotion of enduring works that carry readers across borders and communities.

## **NCBA RECOGNITION AWARD**

*Dear California: The Golden State in Diaries and Letters*, edited by David Kipen, Redwood Press

## **NOMINEES:**

### **POETRY**

*Light and Clay: New and Selected Poems*, Maxine Chernoff, Madhat Press

*In the Cities of Sleep*, Elizabeth C. Herron, Fernwood Press

*Eggtooth*, Jesse Nathan, Unbound Edition Press

***The Disordered Alphabet*, Cintia Santana, Four Way Books (WINNER)**

*Leviathan*, Michael Shewmaker, Louisiana State University Press

*Songbirds of the Nine Rivers*, Joseph Zaccardi, Sixteen Rivers Press

### **FICTION**

***North Woods*, Daniel Mason, Random House (WINNER)**

*The Dog of the North*, Elizabeth McKenzie, Penguin Press

*Wildflowers*, stories, Beverly Parayno, PAWA Press/Philippine American Writers and Artists

*Forget I Told You This*, Hilary Zaid, University of Nebraska Press

*Land of Milk and Honey*, C Pam Zhang, Riverhead Books

### **CREATIVE NONFICTION**

*What You Don't Know Will Make a Whole New World*, Dorothy Lazard, Heyday

*Secret Harvests: A Hidden Story of Separation and the Resilience of a Family Farm*, David Mas Masumoto, Artwork by Patricia Wakida, Red Hen Press

*Starstruck: A Memoir of Astrophysics and Finding Light in the Dark*, Sarafina El-Badry Nance, Dutton

***Unraveling: What I Learned About Life While Shearing Sheep, Dyeing Wool, and Making the World's Ugliest Sweater*, Peggy Orenstein, Harper (WINNER)**

*Most Delicious Poison: The Story of Nature's Toxins—From Spices to Vices*, Noah Whiteman, Little, Brown Spark

### **GENERAL NONFICTION**

*Inflamed: Abandonment, Heroism, and Outrage in Wine Country's Deadliest Firestorm*, Anne E. Belden, Paul Gullixson, Lauren A. Spates, Permuted Press

***Immeasurable Outcomes: Teaching Shakespeare in the Age of the Algorithm*, Gayle Greene, Johns Hopkins University Press (WINNER)**

*The Hungry Season: A Journey of War, Love, and Survival*, Lisa M. Hamilton, Little, Brown and Company

*Going Infinite: The Rise and Fall of a New Tycoon*, Michael Lewis, W.W. Norton & Company

*Freedom to Win: A Cold War Story of the Courageous Hockey Team That Fought the Soviets for the Soul of Its People—And Olympic Gold*, Ethan Scheiner, Pegasus Books

### **CALIFORNIA TRANSLATION**

#### **California Translation in Poetry**

***A Cha Chaan Teng That Does Not Exist*, Derek Chung, translated from the Chinese by May Huang, Zephyr Press (WINNER)**

*Through the Walls of Solitude*, Álvaro Oliveira, translated from the Portuguese by Diniz Borges, Letras Lavadas Edições/Bruma Publications

*Whoever Drowned Here*, Max Sessner, translated from the German by Francesca Bell, Red Hen Press

*Columns*, Nikolai Zabolotsky, translated from the Russian by Dmitri Manin, ARC Publications

## **California Translation in Prose**

*The Short End of the Sonnenallee*, Thomas Brussig, translated from the German by Jonathan Franzen and Jenny Watson, Picador

*Blue Hunger*, Viola Di Grado, translated from the Italian by Jamie Richards, Bloomsbury Publishing

**Whale**, Cheon Myeong-kwan, translated from the Korean by Chi-Young Kim, Archipelago Books (WINNER)

## **CHILDREN'S LITERATURE**

### **Younger Readers**

*How Does Santa Go Down the Chimney?* Mac Barnett, illustrated by Jon Klassen, Candlewick Press

**To Boldly Go: How Nichelle Nichols and Star Trek Helped Advance Civil Rights**, Angela Dalton, illustrated by Lauren Semmer, Harper (WINNER)

*The Shape of You*, Mữn Thị Vãn, illustrated by Miki Sato, Kids Can Press

### **Middle Grade**

*The Eyes and the Impossible*, Dave Eggers, illustrated by Shawn Harris, published simultaneously by Knopf Books for Young Readers and McSweeney's

**Farther Than the Moon**, Lindsay Lackey, Roaring Brook Press (WINNER)

*Boomi's Boombox*, Shanthi Sekaran, Katherine Tegan Books

### **Young Adult**

*The Coldest Winter I Ever Spent*, Ann Jacobus, Carolrhoda Lab

*All the Yellow Suns*, Malavika Kannan, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

**Accountable: The True Story of a Racist Social Media Account and the Teenagers Whose Lives It Changed**, Dashka Slater, Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers (WINNER)

## **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 late great independent bookstore in Berkeley. The Fred Cody Award for lifetime achievement is presented every year to a member of the literary community. Previous recipients include Brenda Hillman, Isabel Allende, Juan Felipe Herrera, Daniel Ellsberg, Sandra M. Gilbert, Jack Hirschman, Judy Grahn, Susan Griffin, Willis Barnstone, Adam Hochschild, Kay Ryan, Michael Pollan, Al Young, Tamim Ansary, 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, and Nancy J. Peters.

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