



Royal Palm
Literary Awards

2021



Welcome

Welcome to the 2021 remote RPLA awards ceremony! Due to the pandemic, we're celebrating remotely this year (again!), but fun is still on the agenda.

If you're new to it, the Royal Palm Literary Awards competition is FWA's flagship writing competition, which this year accepted entries in twenty-seven adult genre-categories and five youth genre-categories, with published and unpublished works judged separately.

During the ceremony, the winners of this year-long competition are announced for the very first time. Winning can be life changing, not just for the fun of bragging and wagging around cool trophies, but also because wins have given members real boosts to their writing careers.

Particularly exciting are the grand prizes—Published Book of the Year, Unpublished Book of the Year, and Best Children's Book. For youth, the grand prize is the Candice Coghill Memorial Award.

Thank you to RPLA's administrative team, all of whom have generously shared their time and talent to the writing community through RPLA. Their names and photos appear later in this program.

Thank you to RPLA's 197 judges, who were literary agents, publishers, journalists, editors, librarians, bestselling and award-winning authors, professors, university English department heads, and teachers. They were an international contingent, and they took their mission seriously.

Special thanks to the stars of RPLA—the entrants! Each year you raise the bar. For the first time in RPLA history, we had to set up a protocol to close the submission window early if we received more submissions than the system could handle. We closed half a day earlier than normal—with a record 577 entries. We appreciate your enthusiasm!

RPLA is a celebration of writers. All writers. We're happy you're joining us. Sit back and have a great time.



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JUDGING PROCESS

For each entry, judging required eight steps, multiple administrators and rubric coordinators, and many judges, as follows:

- Two initial judges scored and commented on a 100-point scale. For book-length entries, they read the first thirty pages. [An entry could be entered in two genre-categories, maximum.]
- If the scores of the initial judges were fifteen or more points apart, a discrepancy judge was brought in. The two closest scores were recorded, and the third was dropped.
- All rubrics were reviewed by rubric coordinators for consistency and tone.
- If the combined scores of the two recorded initial-judge rubrics totaled 170 or more points, the entry became a semifinalist.
- Semifinalist entries were sent to final judges. For book-length entries, the final judges read the full book.
- The score of the final judge was doubled and added to the initial scores.
- If the total score was 340 or greater, the entry became a finalist.

Only finalists were eligible for awards, which were given to the top three scorers in each genre category. The winners' names will be revealed for the first time—Saturday night!





Royal Palm Literary Awards Finalists

AKIRA ODANI

A Chrysalis in Tokyo

AL PESSIN

Blowback

ALISON R. SOLOMON

Before She Left

AMARILYS GACIO RASSLER

I Passed The Chiseler

Fidel Wants Our Children ...
A Cuban Child's Departure from
Her Homeland

Behind The Scenes ...
A Christmas Tale

ANA GUARDADO

The Pattern Repeats

ANDREA MOTTAU

Eternal Flame

ARIELLE HAUGHEE

Pling's Party

Creatives' Journal for
Inspiration and
Productivity

ARTHUR M DOWEYKO

Barsoom

Captain Arnold and Other
Tales of the Abnormal

B. ULENA; NANCY BUSCHER


KEYHOLE MYSTERIES, Witness-5

BARBARA BOND

The Last Chapter

BARBARA REIN

Tales from the Eerie Canal



Royal Palm Literary Awards Finalists

BETSY K. STOUTMORRILL

The Art of Sitting Still

BETTE LEE CROSBY

A Million Little Lies

BONNIE HOOVER

BRAENDLIN

Shakespeare's Secrets

BREE H. LIZBETH

Lovely Girl

The Social Media
Conundrum

BRIAN PETKASH

Mistakes by the Lake

CATHERINE KEAN

An Outlaw's Desire

Hot Magic

CATHERINE U. FITZPATRICK

Cataclysm

CHRIS HAMILTON

The Return of a Minor Goddess

The Black Ticket

CHRISTINE MOONEY

Hope and Stories: Sentimental
Journey

CLAIRE M. JOHNSON

For Thee

CLAIRE MATTURRO

My Father Tells a Story

CLAY GISH

Prairie Rose

CLIFF SCHARKE

Dream Machine



Royal Palm Literary Awards Finalists

CRAIG PENNINGTON

West of the Alleghenies

D.G. STERN

Time Tale

DAKOTA ORLANDO

Flo Flo Keeps the Legend Alive

DANA J. SUMMERS

From Hell's Heart

DAVID M. PEARCE

The Minotaur's Lair

The Apiary

DAVID SPIEGEL

Firebirds

DIANA V. BRADDOM

Margot's Missing
Scrunchie

DIANE WEINER

The Sinister Course

DOC HONOUR

Sixteen, Nine, Four Fifty

Fishing Hands

DONALD JAY

Christmas Renewal

DONNA PARREY


My Renaissance

DOUG ALDERSON

America's Alligator: A Popular
History of Our most
Celebrated Reptile

E.A. RUSSO

Laughing in the Dark



Royal Palm Literary Awards Finalists

EDWARD BURKE

Hell's Rainbow

ELENA FOWLER

Life's Kaleidoscope

ELIZABETH WEISS VOLLSTADT

Aunt Winifred Goes to Court

Finding Love in the Florida Keys

ELLE ANDREWS PATT

Among The Blue Horses

ELLE E. IRE

Threadbare

FERN GOODMAN

Knee(d) to Know

GABRIELA HERNANDEZ

Timothy's Magic Wheelchair:
The Martian Overlord

GAYLE WOODSON

Room Service

GEORGE AUGUST MEIER

The Sweet Smell of Plantains

HENRY KUHLMAN

Breaking rules: Ten Seconds to
Death

HOLLY BEBERNITZ

The Elusive Culprit: Finding My
Way Through My Mother's
Dementia

HOWARD MOON

Tattoos

IAN KIRKPATRICK

Blessed Be Our God?



Royal Palm Literary Awards Finalists

ISABEL MESTEY-COLON

Normal

The Wrath of Nemesis

J.C. BRUCE

Mister Manners

Strange Currents

JACK PENDRAY

50 Years of Christmas
Letters: The Life and
Times of a Lucky Man

JAY GILBERT

There's a Pony in
that Car!

JESSIE ERWIN

Moon Flying

Renli's Guide to
Photography

Afiya, the Striped
Cheetah

JILL MORGAN CLARK

Loose Balloons

JOAN LEVY

A Promise Kept

JOAN LIPINSKY COCHRAN

The Hasidic Rebbe's Son

JOHN HOPE

Recalculating

JOSEPH KUHN CAREY

Black Forest Dreams, A
Journey Through Germany

JOYCE WAGNER

Amplified
(Tintinnabulation Times
Three)



Royal Palm Literary Awards Finalists

JULI SIMON

The Whole World

Memory of Trees

JULIETTE GODOT

From the Drop of Heaven

K E GARLAND

Mental Health Matters

K. L. SMALL

Strandlock

KAREN ANN WILSON

Toby

KELLY SANFORD

The Requisite Desolation

KEN PELHAM

Gumshoes, Fangs, Rockets,
& Spies: How Literary
Genres Evolve and Change
Our World

The Medusa Jump

KERRY BLAISDELL

A Lamentation of Swans

KIP CASSINO

Tasker's Grass

Buddies

KRISTA KEATING-JOSEPH

Big Hearted Charlie's Coloring
Book: The Story of a Dog
Named Turtle and a Turtle
Named Dog

KRISTIN DURFEE

Mass

L. H. DAVIS

The Pirate's Wife



Royal Palm Literary Awards Finalists

L. REYNOLDS ANDIRIC

African Experiences

Getting It, Then Getting
Along: Understanding the
World's Five Major Religions

LADONNA LYNN WRIGHT

Hazard Pay

LAWRENCE MARTIN

The Critique Club

The Wall: Chronicle of a
Scuba Trial

LEAH MILLER

Snakebit

LEE FANNING HALL

That Old Grandfather
Clock

LEE GRAMLING

War Clouds Over West Florida

**LINDA BEREMAND BRAGG,
COBY LEE**

Heart Thieves

LINDA FEIST

Wildflowers

LINDA KRAUS

Twilight Love

Survivor's Guilt


LISA BUIE-COLLARD

Rain

LOREN LEITH

Winifred Gains

Go Ask Alice



Royal Palm Literary Awards Finalists

LUCY LIPARI
RICHARD LIPARI
DANCING WORDS

LYNN BECHDOLT
The Old Lovers

LYNN SCHIFFHORST
Light in the Clouds

Seats for Three at the
Bar

We Don't Have Time,
Gusty

M.R. GALLOWS
Have You Seen Me?

M.R. STREET
The Claddagh

MARIE Q ROGERS
The Family Plot

MARK H. NEWHOUSE
My Family Secret: The
Holocaust

MARLEY MEJIA
Glioblastoma

MARTY
A Shadowed Fate

MARY ELLEN ORVIS
Florida Sonata

MARY T. WAGNER
The Werewolf's Queen
Finnigan the Lionhearted



Royal Palm Literary Awards Finalists

MELODY DEAN DIMICK

Tattoo Parlor

MICHAEL R. HOWARD

My Dhow

Still

Pandemic Eyes

MICHELE V. KNUDSEN

Taking a Powder

Third Time's a Charm

N.M. COLLETT

Ode to Rain

NANCY BEAULE

The Spelling Test

PATRICK KENDRICK

American Ripper: The
Enigma Of America's
Serial Killer Cop

PATTI M. WALSH

Ghost Girl

PAUL IASEVOLI

My Horoscope for the Day I
Turn 65

Color Vision

North of the Paranaiba

PETER S. RUSH

Young Americans

R. EMILY IRBY


Dear Humans

RALPH HORNBECK

Strangler Fig

RAYMOND HALL

RV Life



Royal Palm Literary Awards Finalists

RC WHITE

Lillian's Gift

RITA M. BOEHM

One Soldier's War...In His
Own Words

ROBERT HART

Pointing Fingers

ROBIN MIMNA

The Corpse

RUTH ALESSI

Pint o' Milk

RUTH SAWH

You to Come to

RYAN WAKEFIELD

Journey to Jumbalot

SAMANTHA LESLIE

streetside conversations
amongst the crowd

SHARON L. MENEAR

Murder on Banyan Isle

SHUTTA CRUM

NOT Another Lovey Bunny
Story

The We

How to Properly Read a Paper
Map

SOPHIE BARTOW


Kisses, Family & Hope

STEVEN CHARLES

Children of Veteris

SUSAN KITE

Moon Crusher



Royal Palm Literary Awards Finalists

SUSAN LINDSLEY

When Yestertime Was Now

SUSAN LLOYD-DAVIES

Turnabout

SUZAN E. ZAN

From Suffering to Salve:
My Journey to Happiness

TERESA LITTLE

The Tell

TOM SWARTZ

Where are my Keys?

TRICIA PIMENTAL

Joy in the Mourning

URS A. BOELSTERLI

Escapade On Steroids

VANNA NGUYEN

The Life She Once Knew: The
Incredible True Story of
Queenana, The Bloomingdale
Library Attack Survivor

VERONICA H. HART

Boy Comes Home

VICKI RILEY

Cayo Hueso Literary Writings
And Artwork From Key West

VIRGINIA NYGARD

Maggie The Bag Lady

**WENDY L. SAMFORD,
PH.D.**


The First Wrinkle

WILLIAM CLAPPER

I Heard Footprints

ZAIN DEANE

The Four Deaths of Valerie



Awards schedule

- 01 **Opening**
- 02 **Youth RPLA**
- 03 **Candice Coghill Award**
- 04 **Short Nonfiction**
- 05 **Vice President's Award**
- 06 **Short Fiction**
- 07 **President's Award**
- 08 **Poetry**
- 09 **General Catch-All**
- 10 **Kaye Coppersmith Award**
- 11 **Literature for Youth**
- 12 **Surprise RPLA One-Time Award**
- 13 **Best Children's Book**
- 14 **Unpublished Book-Length Nonfiction**
- 15 **Unpublished Book-Length Fiction**
- 16 **Unpublished Book of the Year Runner-ups**
- 17 **Unpublished Book of the Year**
- 18 **Published Book-Length Nonfiction**
- 19 **Published Book-Length Fiction**
- 20 **Published Book of the Year Runner-ups**
- 21 **Published Book of the Year**

RPLA Team

Admins & Support



Chris Coward
Chair



Elaine Senecal
Software Creation



Bill Opperman
Chair Understudy



Tami Lowe
Entry Verification



Anne Dalton
Legal



Arielle Haughee
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Admins & Support



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Paul Iasevoli
Judge training



Chrissy Jackson
Judge administration



Laurie Andrews
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J.C. Gatlin
Videos



Su Gerheim
Administration

Rubric Coordinators



Laurie Andrews



Diane Boilard



Patricia Crumpler



John DeJordy



Barry Dimick



Melody Dimick



Chris Hamilton

Rubric Coordinators



Veronica H. Hart



Paul Iasevoli



Mark Newhouse



Alison Nissen



Bill Opperman



David Pearce

Special thanks to all our judges!

AWARDS

- All semifinalists receive an electronic semifinalist badge
- All finalists receive an electronic finalist badge
- All winners receive RPLA's flagship acrylic "book" trophy and a Gold, Silver, or Bronze electronic badge
- Published Gold and Silver book-length winners receive seals to affix to their book covers
- Grand prize winners receive a large acrylic "book" trophy and an individual interview for the Florida Writers blog
- Published Book of the Year and Unpublished Book of the Year winners win a cash award
- Published Book of the Year and Unpublished Book of the Year winners and runners-up receive a medallion
- The Published Book of the Year winner is invited to be the next year's Collection Person of Renown and to participate in the Omega Project, a program to garner reviews for the winning entry





The Omega Project

Through the Omega Project, FWA Lifetime Member David-Michael Harding is again offering a service to the winner of the Published Book of the Year. The service is made possible through the Kathryn DePumpo Harding Memorial Trust, which David Michael established in honor of his late wife, known for her philanthropy and random acts of kindness.

The Foundation purchases fifty copies of the Published Book of the Year for FWA members to review. This benefits the PBOY winner and also the reviewers, who receive an award-winning book to enjoy and treasure and the satisfaction of serving the writing community.

If you are an FWA member in good standing, and wish to participate, please contact Chrissy Jackson at cjackson@floridawriters.org to get your name on the list.

RPLA and FWA are forever enriched for the generosity of David-Michael and the inspiration of Kathryn. The Omega Project truly embodies FWA's credo, "Writers Helping Writers."

Florida Writers Association
Collections Volume 13: Footprints
JC Gatlin, Collections Coordinator



The Florida Writers Association 13th volume of published Collection books resulted in 122 members submitting 168 entries.

Our Person of Renown, Marina Brown, winner of the 2020 FWA RPLA Published Book of the Year Award, had the daunting task of choosing her top ten favorites from the 60 winning authors bound for this edition.

Thanks to our members' participation, the collection contest remains one of FWA's favorite member benefits. We are pleased to announce the winning authors and their entries.



Marina Brown's **TOP TEN PICKS**

1. Juli Simon, *Dirt Road Women*
2. Henry James Kaye, *Rosa's Angel*
3. Jessie Erwin, *Boots*
4. Fern Goodman, *Whiplash*
5. David M. Pearce, *A Path Without Footprints*
6. John Hope, *Beyond the Closed Door*
7. Bart Huitema, *Kara Michaels*
8. Sonja Jean Craig, *Under-Standing*
9. Michele Verbitski Knudsen, *Taking a Powder*
10. Frances Hight, *Marching Orders*

Collections Winners

Gerri Almand, *Turning Stones*
Lynn Bechdolt, *Making Tracks*
Monica Becker, *Footprints in the Snow*
William Clapper, *I Heard Footprints*
William G. Collins, *A Hill of Courage*
Shutta Crum, *After You*
William Delia, *The Last Dance*
Victor DiGenti, *The Library Steps*
Bob Ellis, *Footprints at the Edge*
Michael Farrell, *The Every Beast*
Hope N. Griffin, *Queen Ann and the Dragon*
Chris Hamilton, *The Return of a Minor Goddess*
Robert Hart, *Sands of Time*
Bonnie B. Herrick, *Tiny Footprints*
Ellen Holder, *Footprints*
Paul Iasevoli, *A Perfect Size Six*
Chrissy Jackson, *Footprints Must Bring Change*
Rome Johnson & Kaitlin Thern, *Footprints in the Snow*
Beda Kantarjian, *Charm School*
R.L. Keck, *Footprints in the Dirt*
Alice Klaxton, *A Fading Image*
Linda Kraus, *The First Step*
Joan Levy, *A Good Man*
Richard, Lipari, *Over There*
Anthony Malone, *Yellow Footprints*

Collections Winners

continued

Arleen Mariotti, Sole Tracker
Frank T. Masi, Angel Baby
Angie M. Mayo, Celeste
Phyllis McKinley, Prescription
Mark McWaters, Bigfoot Stomping Grounds
George August Meier, Stubborn Footprints
Sherry Mendoza, Side by Side
Leah Miller, Kissing Kismet
Mark H. Newhouse, Yellow Footprints
Elaine Person, Admitting D-feet
Jim Ramage, Footprints in the Sand
Amarilys Gacio Rassler, Our Living Testament
Cathy Rebhun, Letting Go
Carolee Russell, Turtles Come Home
Joan O. Scharf, Beyond the Field
K. L. Small, Farrier's Footprints
D.J. Snyder, Footprints
E.M. St. Pierre, Leave No Trace
Mary J. Staller, A One-Legged Seagull
Mike Summers, Extant
Skye Taylor, Duffy's Footprints
Nadine Vaughan, Footprints at Shambhala
Patt M. Walsh, The Pink Slippers
Sharon Weatherhead, His Footprints
Ed N. White, Prey Tell

2021 Winning Youth Authors, Youth Collection Volume 8

Age Group 9 – 13

Gold: Cameron Smith, The Print

Silver: Vivian Fernandez, 13 Playlists for My 13th Birthday

Bronze: Ela Edmonds, Life is a Footprint

Honorable Mention: Jude D. DeStefano, Footprints in the Mud

Honorable Mention: Orian Memmott, Earth Print

Honorable Mention: Ebelle Creve-coeur, The Footprints You Left

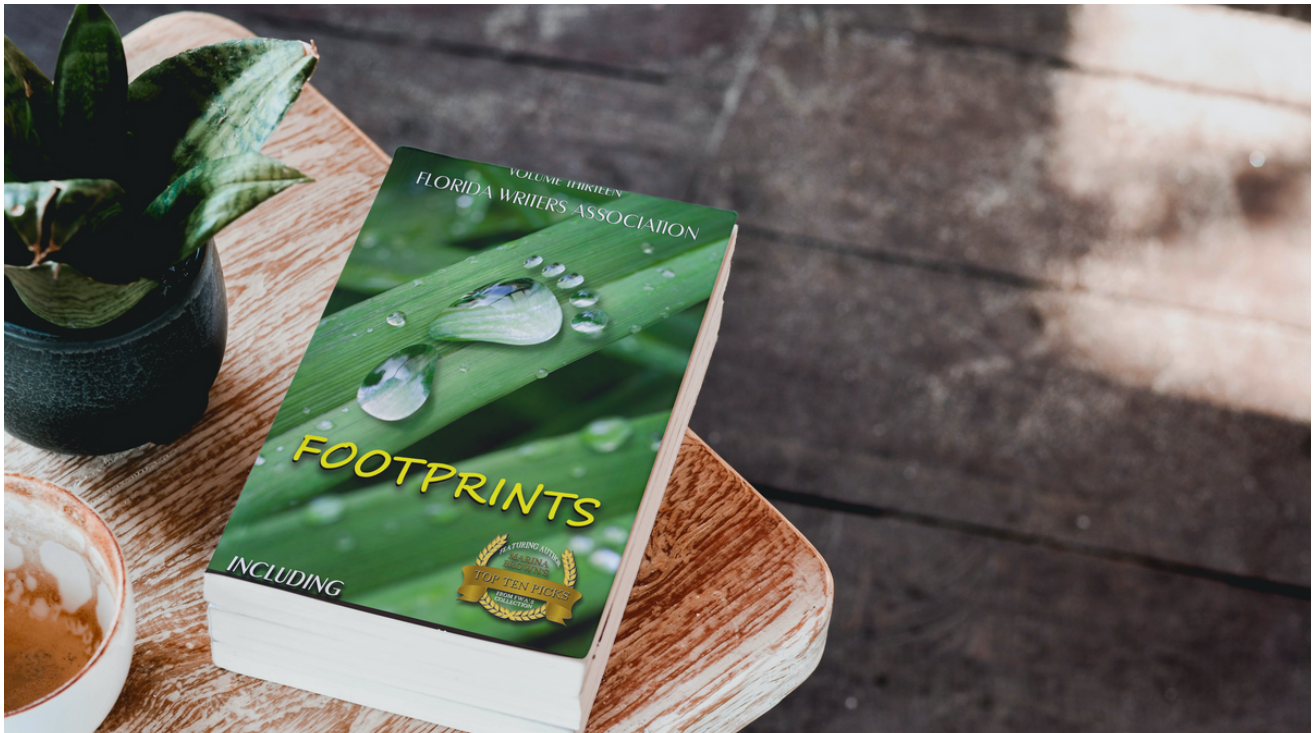
Age Group 14 – 17

Gold: Samantha Leslie, Footsteps in the Sand

Silver: Carolyn Chen, For the Tide

Bronze: Kayla Brown, Blackmore High

We are also pleased to announce this year's youth collection had a record 28 youth authors submit. That is the highest youth participation (43% of the membership) in its eight-year history. The youth contest, modeled after the adult contest, carries the same theme and Person of Renown.



Order your copy today!

Florida Writers Association members
enjoy a discounted price of \$12.

Contact Chrissy Jackson at
cjackson@floridawriters.org to place
your order.

IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth Hyatt

Elizabeth Hyatt, longtime FWA member and conference registration volunteer passed away recently. The world will not be as bright without her smile, not as fun without her sense of humor, and not as pleasant without her unfailing kindness to all.

We miss you, Elizabeth.

In lieu of flowers or cards, her family asks that you please consider contributing to a fundraiser for the Florida Writers Foundation. [You can contribute by visiting this link.](#)





Don't forget...

your Royal Palm Literary Award shirt!

Scan the QR code to visit the Florida Writers Association Etsy Shop and order your shirt! Or visit the shop at:

www.etsy.com/shop/FloridaWriters

