

# INDEPENDENT AUTHOR NETWORK

## BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS

### 2019 WINNERS and FINALISTS

Congratulations to all Winners. Finalists, listed in random order.

#### The 2019 Fiction Books of the Year

**First Place-** *Touching the Wire* by Rebecca Bryn

**Second Place-** *Let There Be Light: A Twin Hearts Novel* by A.M. Johnson

**Third Place-** *The Return of King Lillian* by Suzie Plakson

#### The 2019 Non-Fiction Books of the Year

**First Place-** *Resurrection Lily: The BRCA Gene, Hereditary Cancer & Lifesaving Whispers from the Grandmother I Never Knew* by Amy Byer Shainman

**Second Place-** *Breaking Vases: Shattering Limitations & Daring to Thrive: A Middle Eastern Woman's Story* by Dima Ghawi

**Third Place-** *King Here: Never Too OLD, Too RICH or Too ANYTHING to Meet Jesus* by Trish Porter Topmiller

#### Fiction: Action/Adventure

##### **The Outstanding Action/Adventure**

***Actions of Violence: Jack Connor Series Book 1 - Gary Baldocchi***

##### **Finalists**

*The Mutiny Girl: Book 1* by Karen S. Gordon

*Steel Force: A Jack Steel Thriller* by Geoffrey Saign

*The Tree of Life: A Dr. Nicklaus Hart Novel* by Timothy Browne

*Amie and the Child of Africa* by Lucinda E Clarke

*Dark Spiral Down* by Michael Houtz

*The Rusted Scalpel: A Dr. Nicklaus Hart Novel* by Timothy Browne

#### Fiction: Christian/Religious

##### **The Outstanding Christian/Religious Fiction**

***Among the Crepe Myrtles* by Kim Williams**

##### **Finalists**

*Stranded In The Wild* by Gary Rodriguez

*Julia's Gifts: Great War - Great Love* by Ellen Gable

*The Rusted Scalpel: A Dr. Nicklaus Hart Novel* by Timothy Browne

*Where You Lead* by Leslea Wahl

*The Tree of Life: A Dr. Nicklaus Hart Novel* by Timothy Browne

*Grace in Mambasa* by Tracy Traynor

#### Fiction: Fantasy

## **The Outstanding Fantasy**

***Hexborn* by A.M. Manay**

### **Finalists**

*The Rose Queen* by Alison McBain

*The Return of King Lillian* by Suzie Plakson

*Guardian: The Choice-Magical Beasts* by Geoffrey Saign

*Destroyer's Blood* by Michael Lynes

*Zeus Is Undead: This One Has Zombies* by Michael G. Munz

*Fortune's Fool: A Gideon Quinn Case* by Kathleen McClure

### **Fiction: First Novel**

#### **The Outstanding First Novel**

***The Return of King Lillian* by Suzie Plakson**

### **Finalists**

*The Lost Valor of Love* by E A Carter

*Lights on the Sea* by Miquel Reina

*Children of the Elements: A Steampunk Adventure* by Ora Wanders

*Once Upon a Time a Sparrow* by Mary Avery Kabrich

*Life Happens on the Stairs* by Amy J. Markstahler

*BRoken EXIT* by K.N. Palmer

*Shadow Resistance* by B.J. Cyprian

### **Fiction: Historical**

#### **The Outstanding Historical**

***Touching the Wire* by Rebecca Bryn**

### **Finalists**

*A Hundred Fires in Cuba* by John Thorndike

*How Dare The Birds Sing: A Novel of Love and Fate* by Marina Osipova

*The Lost Valor of Love* by E A Carter

*To My Best Girl: Courage, Honor, and Love in the Civil War: The Inspiring Life Stories of Rufus Dawes and Mary Gates* by Steve Magnusen

*Tread Softly on My Dreams* by Gretta Curran Browne

*The Sheriff's Catch: The Sassana Stone Pentalogy* by James Vella-Bardon

### **Fiction: Horror**

#### **The Outstanding Horror**

***The Rising: The End Time Saga* by Daniel Greene**

### **Finalists**

*Memoir From Hell* by Stephen Ross

*The Deal Maker* by Lou Yardley

*Atomic City Terror: Curse of the Murderous Dummy* by Michael Ray Laemmle

*Copper Pennies* by Carrie D. Miller

*Crueler and More Unusual: Four More Short Stories of Judicial Horror* by Erik Dean

**Fiction and Non-Fiction: Humor/Comedy/Satire**

**The Outstanding Humor/Comedy/Satire**

***Zeus Is Undead: This One Has Zombies* by Michael G. Munz**

**Finalists**

*Bocas: a novel* by Thomas M. Barron

*Trumpism Uncensored Survival Handbook: Tush* by Nicholas Dines

*The Dumb Class: Boomer Junior High* by Mike Hatch

*I Animal* by Kevin Del Principe

*Section Roads* by Mike Murphey

*The Allmoods Cookbook, Second Volume* by Evelyn Elgin The Kitchen Therapist

**Fiction: Literary/General Fiction**

**The Outstanding Literary General Fiction**

***Once Upon a Time a Sparrow* by Mary Avery Kabrich**

**Finalists**

*A Well-Respected Man* by David W Berner

*Little Girl Leaving: A Novel Based on a True Story* by Lisa Blume

*Three Ways to Disappear* by Katy Yocom

*I, Claudia* by Lin Wilder

*A Hundred Fires in Cuba* by John Thorndike

*Corner Confessions* by Kiersten Hall

*Dew Angels* by Melanie Schwapp

**Fiction: Mystery**

**The Outstanding Mystery**

***Murder in Plane Sight* by Julie Holmes**

**Finalists**

*Between the Lies: A Novel* by Cynthia A. Graham

*Counter Point* by Marji Laine

*The Errant Flock* by Jana Petken

*The Golden Peacock: a Rainee Allen mystery* by Lauren B. Grossman

*Two Hearts Under Fire* by Tamara Ferguson

*Shadowed by Death: An Oliver Wright WW II Mystery* by Mary Adler

**Fiction: Paranormal/Supernatural**

**The Outstanding Paranormal/Supernatural**

***Hypnosis: A Return to The Past* by Maria Inês Rebelo**

**Finalists**

*Jordan* by Victoria Landis

*Dickensen Academy* by Christine Grabowski

*Hypnos: Seeking the Zodiacs Book One* by RJ Blain

*Ghost of a Chance* by McKenna Dean

*Duality* by Ametra S. Rayford

*Nights Arose* by Andrea Roche

### **Fiction: Romance**

#### **The Outstanding Romance**

***Until the Last Star Fades* by Jacquelyn Middleton**

#### **Finalists**

*Hope from Daffodils* by Karen Coulters

*Twisted Rock* by Jill Sanders

*Born of Nothing* by Jill Ramsower

*Elliot's Choice* by Kimberly Miller

*Julia's Gifts: Great War - Great Love* by Ellen Gable

*Once Upon a Romance: A Dream Come True* by Alex Bailey

### **Fiction: Science Fiction**

#### **The Outstanding Science Fiction**

***The Chronocar: An Urban Adventure in Time* by Steve Bellinger**

#### **Finalists**

*Falcon's Call* by Mike Waller

*Lucky* by RH Webster

*NanoMorphosis* by Marla Anderson

*Star Marque Rising* by Shami Stovall

*Fortune's Fool: A Gideon Quinn Case* by Kathleen McClure

*Athena's Choice* by Adam Boostrom

### **Fiction: Novella**

#### **The Outstanding Novella**

***Two Hearts Under Fire* by Tamara Ferguson**

#### **Finalists**

*720 Heartbeats* by Jaka Tomc

*The Window* by E.H. Graham

*Christmas With Niagara* by Susan Jean Ricci

*Two Hearts In Accord* by Tamara Ferguson

*Finger of an Angel* by Panayotis Cacoyannis

*Sharing Sea Glass* by Susan Jean Ricci

### **Fiction: Thriller/Suspense**

## **The Outstanding Thriller/Suspense**

***The Black Fox: Run for your life... by Gordon Bickerstaff***

### **Finalists**

*Dark Spiral Down* by Michael Houtz

*Actions of Violence: Jack Connor Series Book 1* - Gary Baldocchi

*The Mutiny Girl: Book 1* by Karen S. Gordon

*AESOP* by Michele Packard

*Steel Force: A Jack Steel Thriller* by Geoffrey Saign

*Status: Missing* by D. W. Maroney

### **Fiction: Women's Fiction**

#### **The Outstanding Women's Fiction**

***How Dare The Birds Sing: A Novel of Love and Fate* by Marina Osipova**

### **Finalists**

*Chance for Rain* by Tricia Downing

*Josephine's Daughter* by A.B. Michaels

*Hope from Daffodils* by Karen Coulters

*Bedside Manners: A Novel* by Heather Frimmer

*Last Turn Home* by Lara Alspaugh

*Still Breathing* by E. A. Fournier

*Both Sides of Love* by Kimberly Wenzler

### **Fiction and Non-Fiction LGBTQ**

#### **The Outstanding LGBTQ**

***Let There Be Light: A Twin Hearts Novel* by A.M. Johnson**

### **Finalists**

*Candle on the Water: A Novel* by M.A. Myers

*What You Don't See* by Livi Hallahan

*Stitches* by Samantha Simard

*TYSON: a sister's love be limitless* by B.L. Wilson

*Risk: Three Crime-fighting Women Risk All for Love, Lust and Justice* by Sam Skyborne

*The Boys of Summer* by Sarah Madison

*Murder at White Oak* by Marko Realmonte

### **Fiction: Young Adult/Teen/New Adult**

#### **The Outstanding Young Adult/Teen/New Adult**

***Guardian: The Choice - Magical Beasts Book One* by Geoffrey Saign**

### **Finalists**

*Hexborn* by A.M. Manay

*The Return of King Lillian* by Suzie Plakson

*The Haunter* by Kendra Alvey

*Love: A Tangled Knot* by Eichin Chang-Lim

*Life Happens on the Stairs* by Amy J. Markstahler

*Ranger Nader & The Sunstruck Phantom* by Kam Karem

### **Fiction: Children's/Juvenile**

#### **The Outstanding Children's/Juvenile Fiction**

***Puppy Pickup Day: The Little Labradoodle* by April M. Cox**

#### **Finalists**

*Stranded In The Wild* by Gary Rodriguez

*Mylee In The Mirror* by Ellie Collins

*Imagine That: The Magic of The Mysterious Lights* by George Yuhasz

*How I Lost My Ear* by Adam Beck

*Relay* by Roy Lieberman

*Etty Steele Vampire Hunter* by Grayson Grave

### **Fiction: Children's Illustrated**

#### **The Outstanding Children's Fiction Illustrated**

***Imagine That: The Magic of The Mysterious Lights* by George Yuhasz**

#### **Finalists**

*Ruby, Alfie and the Mother's Day Card* by Hil Gibb

*Dorje the Yak* by Caryn Hartman

*Relay* by Roy Lieberman

*The Witch's Cat and The Cooking Catastrophe* by Kirstie Watson

*Puppy Pickup Day: The Little Labradoodle* by April M. Cox

*Dash and Victoria Find True Love* by Vicki Tashman

### **Non-Fiction: Children's/Juvenile**

#### **The Outstanding Children's/Juvenile Non-Fiction**

***Little Miss HISTORY Travels to THE NORTH POLE* by Barbara Ann Mojica**

#### **Finalist**

*Acting Scenes for Kids and Tweens: 60 Original Comedy and Drama Scenes for Young Actors* by Mike Kimmel

### **Non-Fiction: Business/Sales/Economics**

#### **The Outstanding Business/Sales/Economics**

***Beyond Product: How Exceptional Founders Embrace Marketing to Create and Capture Value for Their Business* by Jill Soley and Todd Wilms**

#### **Finalists**

*Owning the Dash: Applying the Mindset of a Fitness Master to the Art of Family Financial Planning* by Anthony C. Delauney

*Fifty Scams and Hoaxes* by Martin Fone

*5 Critical Things For Successful Book Signings* by Adam Dreece

## **Non-Fiction: Career/Occupational**

### **The Outstanding Career/Occupational**

***Being Indie: A No Holds Barred Self-Publishing Guide for Authors* by Eeva Lancaster**

#### **Finalists**

*The Work at Home Training Program: The Ultimate Guide to Working at Home, Making Extra Money, and Avoiding Scams* by Bethany Mooradian

*Champion Your Career: Winning in the World of Work* by Halimah Bellows

*The Shield of Silence: How Power Perpetuates a Culture of Harassment and Bullying in the Workplace* by Lauren Stiller Rikleen

## **First Non-Fiction**

### **The Outstanding First Non-Fiction**

***Breaking Vases: Shattering Limitations & Daring to Thrive: A Middle Eastern Woman's Story* by Dima Ghawi**

#### **Finalists**

*Straining Forward: Minh Phuong Towner's Story* by Michelle Layer Rahal

*Resurrection Lily: The BRCA Gene, Hereditary Cancer & Lifesaving Whispers from the Grandmother I Never Knew* by Amy Byer Shainman

*Short Hair Detention: Memoir of a Thirteen-Year-Old Girl Surviving the Cambodian Genocide* by Channy Chhi Laux

*Finding Hope in the Journey: Recognize His Message* by Heidi Tucker

*Married to Merlot: A Memoir With a Message of Hope* by Martha Louise

*Unwanted: How a Mother Learned to Turn Shame, Grief, and Fear into Purpose, Passion, and Empowerment* by Linda Smith

## **General Non-Fiction**

### **The Outstanding General Non-Fiction**

***Breakdown: A Clinician's Experience in a Broken System of Emergency Psychiatry* by Lynn Nanos**

#### **Finalists**

*No Dancing, No Dancing: Inside the Global Humanitarian Crisis* by Denis Dragovic

*Unwanted: How a Mother Learned to Turn Shame, Grief, and Fear into Purpose, Passion, and Empowerment* by Linda Smith

*Transition Point: From Steam to the Singularity* by Sean A. Culey

*Hindsight: Coming of age on the streets of Hollywood* by Sheryl Recinos

*The Joy of Cruising: Passionate Cruisers, Fascinating Stories* by Paul Thornton

*The Reclusive Writer & Reader of Bandra* by Fiza Pathan

## **Non-Fiction: History**

### **The Outstanding History**

***Missing: A World War II Story of Love, Friendships, Courage, and Survival* by Kenneth D. Evans**

#### **Finalists**



*Silent Spring - Deadly Autumn of the Vietnam War* by Patrick Hogan

*The Face Of A Monster: America's Frankenstein* by Patricia Earnest Suter

*Low on Gas: Nick Mamer's 1929 Venture - High on Sky* by J.B. Rivard

*An American Story: My Family and Yours - Liberation of the Inner Self is Power* by Dr. Mamie Smith

*Tobacco, Trusts, and Trump: How America's Forgotten War Created Big Government* by Jim Rumford

### **Non-Fiction: Education/Reference**

#### **The Outstanding Education/Reference**

***The Learning Project: Rites of Passage* by Lincoln Stoller**

#### **Finalists**

*How to Survive Your Freshman Year* by Yadin Kaufmann and Mark Bernstein

*Tobacco, Trusts, and Trump: How America's Forgotten War Created Big Government* by Jim Rumford

*Holistic Gemz: How to treat seasonal allergies naturally* by Keisha Christian

*Writing the Cozy Mystery: Expanded Second Edition* by Nancy J. Cohen

### **Non-Fiction: Health/Medicine/Fitness**

#### **The Outstanding Health/Medicine/Fitness**

***Resurrection Lily: The BRCA Gene, Hereditary Cancer & Lifesaving Whispers from the Grandmother I Never Knew* by Amy Byer Shainman**

#### **Finalists**

*Look What Dragged the Cat In: The Rise of an Opioid Crisis* by Scott Stevens

*Unblinded: One Man's Courageous Journey through Darkness to Sight* by Kevin Coughlin and Traci Medford-Rosow

*Your Body's Environmental Chemical Burden: A Resource Guide to Understanding and Avoiding Toxins* by Cindy Klement

*90 Days to Live: Beating Cancer When Modern Medicine Offers No Hope* by Rodney Stamps and Paige Stamps

*Raising The Bottom: Making Mindful Choices in a Drinking Culture* by Lisa Boucher

*Responsive Dementia Care: Fewer Behaviors Fewer Drugs* by Helen Buell Whitworth and James A Whitworth

### **Non-Fiction: Memoir/Biography/Autobiography**

#### **The Outstanding Memoir/Biography/Autobiography (Tie)**

***Straining Forward: Minh Phuong Towner's Story* by Michelle Layer Rahal**

***Freckled: A Memoir of Growing Up Wild in Hawaii* by TW Neal**

#### **Finalists**

*Breaking Vases: Shattering Limitations & Daring to Thrive: A Middle Eastern Woman's Story* by Dima Ghawi

*Short Hair Detention: Memoir of a Thirteen-Year-Old Girl Surviving the Cambodian Genocide* by Channy Chhi Laux

*Why Can't Somebody Just Die Around Here? - A story of war, deprivation, courage, perseverance, and triumph* by Gerhard Maroscher



*A Light in the Darkness: Transcending Chronic Illness through the Power of Art and Attitude* by Lisa Sniderman

*Resurrection Lily: The BRCA Gene, Hereditary Cancer & Lifesaving Whispers from the Grandmother I Never Knew* by Amy Byer Shainman

*The Last Surviving Child: A Memoir* by Thuy Rocco

### **Non-Fiction: Parenting/Family/Relationships**

#### **The Outstanding Parenting/Family/Relationships**

***A Mother's Heart: Memoir of a Special Needs Parent* by Eichin Chang-Lim**

#### **Finalists**

*She's Got This!: Essays on Standing Strong and Moving On* by Hartman Joanne and Hill Mary Claire

*Love Is the Answer, God Is the Cure: A True Story of Abuse, Betrayal and Unconditional Love* by Aimee Cabo Nikolov

*Helping your Troubled Friend* by Richard Schwindt

### **Non-Fiction: Christian/Religious**

#### **The Outstanding Christian/Religious Non-Fiction**

***King Here: Never Too OLD, Too RICH or Too ANYTHING to Meet Jesus* by Trish Porter Topmiller**

#### **Finalists**

*God Is Out to Get Us: At All Costs - The Life of Abraham* by Carol Bond Wagner

*The Little Love That Could: Stories of Tenacious Love, Underdogs, and Ragamuffins* by Pamela Capone

*Judgment Of The Nephilim* by Ryan Pitterson

*Sammy: Hero at Age Five* by Mary Schmidt and Gene Donley

*Cross of a Different Kind: Cancer & Christian Spirituality* by Anthony Maranise

### **Non-Fiction: Self-Help**

#### **The Outstanding Self-Help**

***A Year of Living Kindly: Choices That Will Change Your Life and the World Around You* by Donna Cameron**

#### **Finalists**

*Sitting on the Toolbox: Buddha's Wisdom for a Joyful Life* by Venerable Bhante Sujatha and Stacey Stern

*Belonging: Remembering Ourselves Home* by Toko-pa Turner

*Raising The Bottom: Making Mindful Choices in a Drinking Culture* by Lisa Boucher

*A Mother's Heart: Memoir of a Special Needs Parent* by Eichin Chang-Lim

*And Then I Got Fired: One Transqueer's Reflections on Grief, Unemployment & Inappropriate Jokes About Death* by J Mase III

*Your Precious Sight: An Optometrist's Most Memorable Cases* by Eichin Chang-Lim

### **Non-Fiction: Spiritual/Inspirational**

#### **The Outstanding Spiritual/Inspirational**

***Belonging: Remembering Ourselves Home by Toko-pa Turner***

**Finalists**

*Sitting on the Toolbox: Buddha's Wisdom for a Joyful Life* by Venerable Bhante Sujatha and Stacey Stern

*A Light in the Darkness: Transcending Chronic Illness through the Power of Art and Attitude* by Lisa Sniderman

*Saying Yes: An International Love Story* by Patrice Lefebvre

*King Here: Never Too OLD, Too RICH or Too ANYTHING to Meet Jesus* by Trish Porter Topmiller

*The Little Love That Could: Stories of Tenacious Love, Underdogs, and Ragamuffins* by Pamela Capone

*Jewel in the Mud: Zen Musings* by Harmony Kent

**Non-Fiction: Travel/Nature/Photography**

**The Outstanding Travel/Nature/Photography**

***Dancing With Death: An Epic and Inspiring Travel Adventure by Jean-Philippe Soulé***

**Finalists**

*Excess Baggage: One Family's Around-the-World Search for Balance* by Tracey Carisch

*U.S. Route 1: Rediscovering the New World* by Mark A. Marchand

*Love in The Eye of The Storm: Hurricane Irma, Saint Martin & Togetherness* by Billy Nahn

*Walkabout to Wisdom: Awakening to Nature's Teaching in the Australian Outback* by Lachlan Hughson

*Amsterdam Exposed: An American's Journey Into The Red Light District* by David Wienir

**Non-Fiction: Human Interest**

**The Outstanding Human Interest**

***Hindsight: Coming of age on the streets of Hollywood by Sheryl Recinos***

**Finalists**

*I Don't Belong Here* by Ms Melissa Grunow

*King Here: Never Too OLD, Too RICH or Too ANYTHING to Meet Jesus* by Trish Porter Topmiller

*Champion Your Career: Winning in the World of Work* by Halimah Bellows

*Intoxicating Tango: My Years in Buenos Aires* by Cherie Magnus

**Non-Fiction: Art/Music/Performing Arts**

**The Outstanding Art/Music/Performing Arts**

***Monologues for Teens: 60 Original Monologues to Stand Out, Inspire, and Shine by Mike Kimmel***

**Finalists**

*Clowns Dancing on a Tank* by Hank Brusselback and Brad Armstrong