

CALL FOR ENTRIES

2004 TEXAS INSTITUTE OF LETTERS AWARDS

For works published in 2003
Entry Deadline January 7, 2004

JUDGES AND RULES

Entries are to be sent directly to each judge for the competition entered. *Do not send entries to the TIL address.* Write "For TIL Award" on the outside of the submission. A writer may have only one work entered in a category; no work may be submitted in more than one category; different works by the same author may be submitted in different categories. All works entered must have been first published during 2003, except for the Soeurette Diehl Fraser Award for Best Book of Translation, which is given every two years, so books published 2002–2003 are eligible. Clear photographic reproductions of the publication are acceptable for articles but not books. Each entry should be accompanied by a statement of the entrant's eligibility: birth in Texas or two years consecutive residence in the state at some time. A work whose subject matter substantially concerns Texas is also eligible. Those competing for the translation award should send the chair of the committee a copy of the original published book-length text unless the published translation submitted is presented in a bilingual format. Each entry should include the entrant's address and phone number. Winners and finalists will be notified during March 2004, and the winners will be announced at the banquet. Banquet announcements and newspaper articles cover the winners; no other notifications will be sent. The TIL reserves the right to withhold an award if the committee and the president consider that appropriate.

For additional copies of this list, you may find the information on the TIL website:

<http://stedwards.edu/newc/mark/til/>

or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the TIL address above. For other information, contact Fran Vick, at the above address or by e-mail (franvick@aol.com).

JUDGES

Jesse H. Jones Award for Fiction (\$6,000)

James Hannah, Chair, 1306 Todd Trail, College Station TX 77845

Rick Bass, 3801 Vinal Lake Rd., Troy MT 59935

Cheryl Chapman: If UPS: 6415 Blanch Circle, Dallas TX 75214. If by U.S.P.S., PO Box 140367, Dallas TX 75214-0367

Steven Turner Award for Best First Work of Fiction (\$1,000)

Same as above

Carr P. Collins Award for Best Book of Nonfiction (\$5,000)

Pete A. Gunter, Chair, 225 Jagoe, Denton TX 76201
Sandra Gail Teichmann, WTAMU Box 60965, Canyon TX 79016
Bill Crider, 1606 S. Hill Street, Alvin TX 77511-4356

Friends of the Dallas Public Library Award for Book Making the Most Significant Contribution to Knowledge (\$1,000)

Lou Rodenberger, Chair, 8377 FM 2228, Baird TX 79504-4813
George Ward, 3204 Barton Point Dr., Austin TX 78733
Patrick Cox, Asst. Director, Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin, Sid Richardson Hall 2.101, 1 University Station D1100, Austin TX 78712-0335

Best Book of Poetry Award (\$5000)

Reginald Gibbons, Chair, Dept. of English, 215 University Hall, Northwestern University, Evanston IL 60208
Dell Marie Rogers, 8083 Stonebrook Pkwy., #1613, Frisco TX 75034
Frances Neihardt, 321 N. Grand Ave., Sherman TX 75090

Natalie Ornish Poetry Award for Best First Book of Poetry (\$1,000) in Memory of A. C. Greene and Eddie Weems

Same Committee as above

Soeurette Diehl Fraser Award for Best Book of Translation (\$1,000) given every two years so books published 2002–2003 are eligible.

Elizabeth Fernea, Chair, 3003 Bowman Avenue, Austin TX 78703
Chris Ellery, Dept. of English, Angelo State University, San Angelo TX 76909
Roger Jones, Dept. of English, Texas State University, San Marcos TX 78666

Brazos Bookstore (Houston) Award for Best Short Story, (\$750) given in Memory of Bill Shearer

Jane Roberts Wood, Chair, 4273 Shorecrest Drive, Dallas TX 75209-1721
Ben Fountain, 5307 Preston Haven Drive, Dallas, TX 75229-3043
John Blair, Dept. of English, Texas State University, San Marcos TX 78666

O.Henry Award for Best Work of Magazine Journalism (\$1,000) given by Sue and Frank McBee of Austin

Celia Morris, Chair, 122 Third St., SE, Washington D.C. 20003

Bill Bishop, 1415 Alameda Drive, Austin TX 78704
Chris Tucker, 1100 Melrose Dr., Richardson TX 75080

**Stanley Walker Award for Best Work of Newspaper Journalism Appearing in a Newspaper
or Sunday Supplement (\$1,000) given by Sue and Frank McBee of Austin**

Jan Reid, Chair, 2107 West 11th St., Austin TX 78703
Bryce Milligan, 627 E. Guenther, San Antonio TX 78210
Michael Hall, PO Box 1569, Austin TX 78767

**Friends of the Austin Public Library Award for Best Children's Book; for Best Young Adults'
Book (\$500)**

Jerry Craven, Chair, 8 Hunsley Hills Blvd., Canyon TX 79015
Carolee Dean, 8509 Hampton Ave. NE, Albuquerque NM 87122
Ruth Pennebaker, 3200 Gilbert, Austin TX 78702

John Bloom Humor Award for the Funniest Texas Book (\$1,000)

Tom Dodge, Chair, 302 Stiles, Midlothian TX 76065
Robert Bryce, 2006 Homedale Dr., Austin TX 78704
Skip Hollandsworth, 6225 Glendora Avenue, Dallas TX 75230

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

James Hoggard, Chair, English Dept., Midwestern State Univ., Wichita Falls TX 76308
Mary Ellen Hartje, English Department, Angelo State University, San Angelo TX 76909
Cathy Henderson, 1613 Waterston Avenue, Austin TX 78703

New Secretary for TIL

Paula Mitchell Marks has turned over the secretarial duties of TIL to Fran Vick. Please direct information for the Newsletter to me at the address on the heading. Paula will maintain the TIL web site, <http://www.stedwards.edu/newc/marks/til/>. A huge thanks to Paula for a job well done, as she does all jobs. **THANK YOU, Paula.**

News of Members and Others

Congratulations to **Pat Carr**, whose *If We Must Die*—a Chaparral book from TCU Press—was a finalist for the PEN Center USA juvenile award. And congratulations to **Mike Cox**, who has received the \$1,250 Percy Jones Award for the Best Year Book Article

(2003) for the West Texas Historical Association. The prize recognized Cox's "Battle of the Painted Rocks: Scraping Off the Layers." Cox also had an article on one of TIL's founding members, **J. Frank Dobie**, in the May 2003 issue of *Texas Highways Magazine*. A TIL member since 1993, Cox has written 11 books, reviews Texas non-fiction for the *Austin American-Statesman* and writes two weekly newspaper columns, "Capital Highlights" and "Texas Tales." He is currently working on a popular history of the Texas Rangers, to be published by Forge Books, with a release date of 2005.

Judy Alter has a new juvenile novel out: *Sam Houston Is My Hero*. TCU Press, the publisher, is reviving their excellent juvenile series.

Michael Gillette has taken over the reins of the Texas Council for the Humanities, returning to Texas from the Center for Legislative Archives in Washington, D.C. The TCH, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, is responsible for granting funds throughout the state of Texas to support the Humanities. **Joe Holley** wrote the copy for the TCH exhibit "Texas Writers" that has appeared at the Texas Book Festival. You can read about the exhibit and funding possibilities on their web site: <http://www.public-humanities.org>.

David Hale Smith of the DHS Literary Agency in Dallas announced that Bill Minutaglio's *City on Fire: The Forgotten Disaster That Devastated a Town and Ignited a Landmark Legal Battle*, has been optioned to Tom Cruise and Paula Wagner's C/W Prods, by Writers & Artists; senior feature writer at the *Dallas Morning News* Bill Marvel's, *The Miner and the Millionaire*, has been sold to Dawn Davis at Harper.

Jane Roberts Wood has been on tour with her new novel *Roseborough*. At Maxwell's Bookstore in De Soto, Wood signed books surrounded by Dairy Queen memorabilia, in keeping with the main character's job in the novel; she signed at River Oaks Bookstore in Houston. At the Blue Willow Books in Houston, Wood met the largest crowd she has ever signed for—from the book clubs in the area who had bought her book for their clubs. Wood has also traveled to Colorado where she signed at McDonald's Bookstore in Estes Park. Her upcoming activities include being the keynote speaker at Richland College, where her topic is "Teacher as Hero," one of the themes found throughout her books. At the West Texas Book & Author meeting in Abilene in September, she will participate on panels with **Elmer Kelton**, **John Erickson**, and **Joyce Roach**. Wood and **Sandra Cisneros** will be keynote speakers at the two luncheons at the National Conference of Humanities for Community Colleges in Santa Fe.

In the June 16 issue of *Publishers Weekly* "Fall Titles Shine: Hopes are high despite cloudy economic forecast," under the "Knock-out Nonfiction—Politics on the Front Burner," **Molly Ivins** is listed with her new book *Bushwhacked*, with Lou Dubose from Random House, due out in September.

Clay Reynolds has a new release, *Threading the Needle*, from Texas Tech University Press and he also has *Ars Poetica*, called an "irreverent and hilarious satire," from Texas Review Press, published this August.

Mimi Swartz, *Texas Monthly* contributing editor, has collaborated with whistleblower Sherron Watkins to produce *Power Failure: The Inside Story of the Collapse of Enron* for Doubleday.

Winners of the Dobie Paisano Writing Fellowships for 2003–2004 are Dominic Smith, a fiction writer from Austin, and William J. Cobb, a native Texan, who is a novelist, essayist and short story writer teaching at Pennsylvania State. These fellowships, sponsored by the University of Texas at Austin and the TIL, allow writers to live at J. Frank Dobie's Paisano Ranch for six months while working on writing projects. See the TIL web site for more information on the fellowships.

Randolph "Mike" Campbell, Regent's Professor of History at the University of North Texas, has a new history of Texas due out—*Gone to Texas: A History of the Lone Star State*—published by Oxford University Press.

Jack Myers has been named Poet Laureate of Texas for the year 2003 by the Texas House of Representatives. Myers is the author of several books, including *The Glowing River*, which won a Violet Crown Award from Texas Writers League. UNT Press is reissuing *Dictionary of Poetic Terms* by **Myers** and Don C. Wukasch. Formerly *The Longman Dictionary of Poetic Terms*, the newly updated version contains over 1,600 entries on the devices, techniques, history, theory, and terminology of poetry from the classical period to the present.

Bryce Milligan, publisher of Wings Press in San Antonio, has announced forthcoming publication of *Street of the Seven Angels*, a previously unpublished novel by the late John Howard Griffin, author of *Black Like Me*.

The Wandering Hill, published by Simon & Schuster, is the second in **Larry McMurtry's** Berrybender Narratives, following *Sin Killer*. Two more volumes are expected in this saga of English aristocrats in the American West.

National Book Award winner **Ai**, poet at Texas State University, has a new volume of poetry titled *Dread*, published by Norton.

James Early, professor emeritus of English at Southern Methodist University, has a book coming out from SMU Press, *Presidio, Mission, and Pueblo: Spanish Architecture and Urbanism in the United States*. Southern Methodist University Press is also publishing *Axeman's Jazz*, a novel by **Tracy Daugherty**.

Texas A&M University Press reports that *Listen Up: Stories by Texas Women Writers*, edited by Sylvia Ann Grider and **Lou Halsell Rodenberger** is due out in November. Texas writers in the book include **Beverly Lowry**, **Carolyn Osborn**, **Annette Sanford**, Denise Chavez, **Katherine Anne Porter**, **Judy Alter**, **Joyce Gibson Roach** and fifteen others.

Texas State Historical Association reports that **Jack Jackson** has edited *Almonte's Texas: Juan N. Almonte's 1834 Inspection, Secret Report, and Role in the 1836 Campaign*. The book was translated by John Wheat.

F. E. Abernethy, Jerry Lincecum and **Frances B. Vick** have edited the forthcoming Texas Folklore Society Publication LX, *The Family Saga: A Collection of Texas Family Legends*. The book contains essays by **John Graves**, **Elmer Kelton**, **James Ward Lee**, and **Robert Flynn**, among others. TFS members receive copies of the yearly books for the price of their annual dues. For anyone interested in joining, contact F. E. Abernethy at fabernethy@sfasu.edu or at Box 13007, SFA Station, Nacogdoches TX 75962.

Bryan Woolley has a book coming out from UNT Press, *Where I Come From*, a collection of the stories of ordinary people in North Texas that ran in *The Dallas Morning News*.

McWhiney Foundation Press is publishing *Christmas at the Ranch* by **Elmer Kelton**, with a foreword by **Walt McDonald**. Elmer has written more than forty novels and was recognized last year by The University of Texas as a Distinguished Alumnus.

It was a treat to read “The Grandest Ordeal,” by **Lynn Hoggard** in the July issue of *Texas Co-op Power*. You can read it to learn about Jim & Lynn’s ordeal of running a 15-kilometer footrace.

Joyce Gibson Roach is editing *The Pathfinder: The Historical Preservation Journal of Westlake*. In the summer edition, **James Ward Lee** wrote “Roanoke, Once and Again,” and **Frances Vick** wrote “The Meaning of Memorial Day,” and “My Memorial Days.”

It has been reported by Harper Collins that **Mary Karr’s** *Tropic of Squalor*, the end of her trilogy of memoirs about her escape from home and “all the medicines I had to take along the way—therapy, getting drunk and getting sober, a brief stint in the loony bin, Prozac, love of friends, and love for a kid. Everybody needs one or two of these to grow up; I happened to need them all”—is in the works.

Mike and Jean Hardy, the Texas-based publishers of James Waller’s *A Thousand Roads*, the sequel to *Bridges of Madison County*, got a post-Waller profile in the *Houston Chronicle*. Jean says the novel has sold 300,000 copies, “her voice revealing only a trace of disappointment that sales were not higher.” Half of the proceeds have gone into growing the publishing business, which Mike runs in Houston, and the other half has gone to help Jean build her bookstores, Front Street Books, in Alpine and Marathon. According to the *Chronicle*, Waller’s book opened the door to national publishing for the Hardys, with manuscripts coming in from accomplished writers, most of them with a Texas connection.

University of Texas Press reports that **John Graves** has *Texas Hill Country* due out in November, with photographs by Wyman Meinzer. And **Laura Wilson** has *Avedon at Work In the American West*, with a Foreword by **Larry McMurtry**, also due in November.

Great Lonely Places of the Texas Plains, poems by **Walt McDonald** and photographs by Wyman Meinzer, is due out from Texas Tech University Press.

The July 21 issue of *Publishers Weekly* carries a review of Andrew Hudgins’s, *Ecstatic in the Poison*, a collection of his poetry published by Overlook and due out in August. PW notes: “Known for his work in narrative verse, Hudgins mixes taut anecdotes and autobiography with more lyrical work in this sixth effort.” The review notes that “Hudgins’s work has aged better than most of his peers’, and should command strong regional attention.”

Baskerville Publishing, a publisher of fine literary and popular fiction and performing arts, formerly owned by Jane Howle, is under new ownership. It is reported that Ron Moore of Fort Worth has purchased the publishing company and has several books in the works.

Kathy Patrick, proprietor of the Pulpwood Queens book club and owner of Beauty and the Book bookstore, is the subject of a profile in the *Los Angeles Times*. The occasion is an appearance by author Mark Lee for a discussion of his book *The Canal House* (Algonquin). Patrick has created what the writer calls “a book group franchise.” She points

out that what started as six local groups has grown in two years to almost 300, with 13 chapters across Texas and Louisiana. Comparing it to a literary revival meeting, the *Times* writer says, "What's happening in Kathy Patrick's living room is one part Empire of Oprah, one part Steel Magnolias and one part Walt Whitman standing on the street corner hawking *Leaves of Grass*." You can read the full profile at calendarlive.com/books/cl-camcnamara20jul20,0,6156779.story?coll=cl-books.

POSSIBILITIES

descant, the small literary magazine published by the English department at TCU, has received praise from *Small Magazine Review*. Dave Kuhne and Lynn Risser are the editors. *descant* offers two cash awards for fiction and two for poetry. For information about submitting, write *descant*, TCU Box 297270, Fort Worth TX 76109 or e-mail descant@tcu.edu.

The University of North Texas Press is publishing the winner of the Katherine Anne Porter Prize in Short Fiction, *Here Comes the Roar*, by Dave Shaw of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The award is given annually to a collection of short-shorts, short stories, or a novella. The winner receives \$1,000 and publication by UNT Press. See information about submissions on the web site www.unt.edu/untpress under Series.

PUT THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE TIL MEETING IN FORT WORTH: March 26–27, 2004

The TIL 2004 Awards Banquet will be held March 26–27, 2004, in Fort Worth at the Radisson Plaza, downtown on Main. It was built in 1928 and was called the Texas Hotel. JFK stayed there the night before he was assassinated. The hotel website is: <http://www.radisson.com/ftworthtx>

IN MEMORIAM

TIL and the world of children's books has lost **Joan Lowery Nixon**, who passed away in Houston, at the age of 76, of complications from pancreatic cancer. Author of over 110 books for children and a total of 140 books, some published in several languages, Nixon was best known for her mysteries. She is the only four-time winner of the Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best Juvenile Mystery. More recently, Nixon had two series of historical novels, the Orphan Train Adventures and the Ellis Island novels. She was past president of the Mystery Writers of America.

Help us locate addresses for the following:

Alfred Crosby; Ronnie Dugger; Shirley Ann Grau; Jessie McGaw; Grace Shange; Kurth Sprague; Whitley Strieber; Alan Tennant; Larry Swindell; James Whitaker. Please e-mail franvick@aol.com with addresses, or send the information to the address on the heading.

We are all interested in your news. Please send it to franvick@aol.com or to the TIL address on the heading.

TIL MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

Toni Thomas is busily working on the calligraphy of the membership names for the TIL Certificates to be sent to the members whose dues are paid up. These certificates, designed by **Barbara Whitehead** and suitable for framing—see below— will be given to incoming new members as well as to the paid-up membership. Any members who wish to receive a certificate and have not paid their dues should send their \$50 to treasurer Jim Hoggard, Department of English, Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, TX 76308. The certificate reads:

The Texas Institute of Letters

Texas Institute of Letters, founded in Dallas during the 1936 Centennial celebration of Texas Independence
for the promotion and recognition of literature in Texas, to encourage “the play of the imagination, the liberation of minds, and the cultivation of the beautiful in Texas life,” as stated by J. Frank Dobie, and
“to foster the writing and reading of good books, and especially to further the cultivation of intelligent readers,” as expressed by Lon Tinkle, both founding members of the Institute, hereby recognize and invites into membership for outstanding contributions to a literary Texas: