



Royal Palm
Literary Awards
2020

Ceremony Program

Welcome!

Welcome to the 2020 remote RPLA awards ceremony!

Due to the pandemic, we're celebrating remotely this year, but fun is still on the agenda. Will we miss five hundred-plus folks cheering, the walks to the stage, and the group photos? You bet. But going remote has its advantages, which you'll see at the ceremony.

If you're new to RPLA, the Royal Palm Literary Awards competition is FWA's flagship writing competition, which this year accepted entries in twenty-eight adult genre-categories and five youth genre-categories, with published and unpublished works judged separately.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. Past winners have told us that 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Particularly exciting are the grand prizes—Published Book of the Year, Unpublished Book of the Year, and Best Children's Book. These winners receive extra perks, which for Published Book of the Year includes an invitation to become the next year's Collection Person of Renown.

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

Thank you to RPLA's 160 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.

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

-RPLA Chair, Chris Coward

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!



Finalists

Adult

Peter Adler, w/a A. R.
Silverberry
Marty Ambrose
Laura Andrews, w/a Elle Andrews
Patt
Karen Auriti, w/a Kerry Reid
Patricia Averbach
James Aylott
Bruce Ballister
Nancy Beaule
Holly Bebernitz
Barbara Bergren, w/a Barbara S.
Bergren
Philip Beyer
Kerry Blaisdell
Urs Boelsterli, w/a Urs A.
Boelsterli
Marie Brack
Maureen Bradford, w/a Maureen
Carol Bradford
Marina Brown
J.C. Bruce
Diane Byington
Tamatha Cain
Amy Cantley, w/a Amy Michels
Cantley
Pat Caren, w/a Marie Q. Rogers
Mark Chick
Nancy J. Cohen
Shutta Crum
Patricia Crumpler
Daniel de Lill, w/a Daniel T. de
Lill, PhD
George Dekle, w/a George R. Dekle,
Sr.
Yusuf DeLorenzo

Melody Dimick, w/a Melody Dean
Dimick
Sue Dobson, w/a Susan Dobson
Betsy Donohue
Dennis Dunigan
David Edmonds, w/a David C.
Edmonds
Jessie Erwin
Dianne Farb, w/a Rebecca Heflin
Leanna Floyd, w/a Dr. Leanna
Floyd
Jane Freeman, w/a Jane Ellen
Freeman
Jay Gilbert
James R. Glover
Carolyn Greeley
Pamela Grey, w/a Dr. Pamela Grey
Larissa Hardesty
Denise Hart
Suzanne Hart, w/a Suzy Hart
Anne Hawkinson & Paul V.
Hunter
Jack L. Hayes
Ellen Holder
Gail Hulnick
Paul Iasevoli
Michael Jordan
Beda Kantarjian
Florence Karsner, w/a Florence
Love Karsner
Ricky Keck, w/a R.L. Keck
Susan Koehler
Linda Kraus
Deborah Kunz, w/a Deborah L.
Kunz
Stephen Leitschuh
Jan Little

Janet Little, w/a Janet Franks
Little
Christine Maken-Holmes, w/a
Chris Holmes
John Mallon
Lawrence Martin
Paula Martinek, w/a Paula Pivko
Angela Mayo, w/a Angie M. Mayo
Margarita McCarthy, w/a Elena
Fowler
Dianne McConkey, w/a Dianne E.
McConkey
Jennifer McKenna, w/a Jenna
McKenna
Sheila McNaughton, w/a Sheila B.
McNaughton
Mark McWaters
Sharon Menear, w/a Sharon L.
Menear
Donna Meredith
Margie Miklas
Leah Miller
Jean Morciglio, w/a Jean F.
Morciglio
Colleen Mueller
Dianna Dann Narciso, w/a Dana
Trantham
Mark Newhouse, w/a Mark H.
Newhouse
Amy Nicolai
William Opperman
Julie Parkinson, w/a J.D. Allen
David Pearce, w/a David M.
Pearce
Robert Pearson
Ken Pelham
Robin Peroldo, w/a Robin Mimna

Virginia Pinholster, w/a Ginger
Pinholster
Michael Polelle, w/a M.J.
Polelle
Janet Post, w/a Janet E. Post
Elizabeth Randall
Amarilys Rassler, w/a Amarilys
Gacio Rassler
Mark Reasoner
Cathy Rebhun
Barbara Rein
Richard Saddlemire, w/a Dalton
Mire
Walter Schenck, w/a Walter
Joseph Schenck, Jr.
Susanne Schuenke, PhD, &
Naum G. Itkin, MD, PhD
Peter Shianna
Ann Shortell
Kathleen Small, w/a K. L. Small
Faydra Stratton, w/a Faydra M.
Stratton
Dana Summers, w/a Dana J.
Summers
Sally Sutfenfield, w/a McKenna
Dean
Tom Swartz
Skye Taylor
Joyce Wagner
Paul Wartenberg
E.J. Wenstrom
Sandie Will

Youth

Jacqueline Cook
Carolyn Chen
Sarah-Catherine Jackson
Samantha Leslie
Murleve Roberts

Awards Schedule

Opening

Youth RPLA

Candice Coghill Award

Short Nonfiction

Vice President's Award

Short Fiction

President's Award

Poetry

General Catch-All

Kaye Coppersmith Award

Literature for Youth

Best Children's Book

Unpublished Book-Length Nonfiction

Unpublished Book-Length Fiction

Unpublished Book of the Year Runner-ups

Unpublished Book of the Year

Published Book-Length Nonfiction

Published Book-Length Fiction

Published Book of the Year Runner-ups

Published Book of the Year

RPLA Team

Admins and Support



Chris Coward
Chairperson



J.C. Gatlin
Videos



Su Gerheim
Admin



Arielle Haughee
Marketing



John Hope
Surveys



Paul Iasevoli
Judge training



Chrissy Jackson
Admin



Tami Lowe
Entry Verification



Bill Opperman
Script Writing



Mark Pryor
Judge Info Mgmt



Elaine Senecal
Web Admin

Judges

Thank you. You know who you are!

Rubric Coordinators



Laurie Andrews



Diane Boilard



Patricia Crumpler



John DeJordy



Barry Dimick



Melody Dimick



Chris Hamilton



Veronica H. Hart



Paul Iasevoli



Alison Nissen



Bill Opperman



David Pearce



John Rehg

Save the Date

The 2021 Royal Palm Literary Award Competition
opens on February 1, 2021!



RPLA Winners 2019



RPLA Youth Winners 2019