

## 2015 CWW Contest Judges

### Lorine Niedecker Poetry Award

#### **Judge: Jericho Brown**

Jericho Brown is the recipient of a Whiting Writers Award and fellowships from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University and the National Endowment for the Arts. His poems have appeared in *The New Republic*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Best American Poetry*. His first book, *Please*, won the American Book Award, and his second book, *The New Testament*, won the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and the Thom Gunn Award; it was named one of the best books of the year by *Library Journal*, *Coldfront*, and the Academy of American Poets. He is an associate professor in English and creative writing at Emory University in Atlanta.

### Edna Meudt Poetry Book Award

#### **Judge: Patricia Smith**

Patricia Smith is the author of seven books of poetry, including *Shoulda Been Jimi Savannah*, winner of the 2014 Rebekah Bobbitt Prize from the Library of Congress, the 2013 Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize from the Academy of American Poets and the Phillis Wheatley Award; *Savannah* was also a finalist for both the William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America and the Balcones Prize. Patricia also authored *Blood Dazzler*, a finalist for the National Book Award, and *Teahouse of the Almighty*, a National Poetry Series selection. Her most recent book is *Gotta Go Gotta Flow*, a collaboration with the late Chicago photographer Michael Abramson. Her work has appeared in *Poetry*, *The Paris Review*, *The New York Times*, *TriQuarterly*, *Tin House*, *The Washington Post*, and in both *Best American Poetry* and *Best American Essays*. Her contribution to the crime fiction anthology *Staten Island Noir*, which she edited, won the Robert L. Fish Award from the Mystery Writers of America for the best debut story of the year and was chosen for *Best American Mystery Stories*. She is a 2014 Guggenheim fellow, a 2012 fellow at both MacDowell and Yaddo, a two-time Pushcart Prize winner, recipient of a Lannan fellowship and a four-time individual champion of the National Poetry Slam, the most successful poet in the competition's history. Her next poetry collection will be released in 2016; she is also working a volume combining poetic monologues and a collaborative novel with her husband Bruce DeSilva, the Edgar-Award winning author of the Liam Mulligan crime novels. Patricia is a professor at the College of Staten Island and an instructor in the MFA program at Sierra Nevada College.

### **Edna Ferber Fiction Book Award**

#### **Judge: Lee K Abbott**

Lee K. Abbott is the author of seven collections of short stories, most recently *All Things*, *All at Once: New & Selected Stories* (Norton). His fiction has appeared in nearly one hundred periodicals, including *Harper's*, *The Atlantic*, *The Georgia Review*, *Epoch*, *The Southern Review*, *Tin House*, and *Boulevard*. His work has been reprinted in *The Best American Short Stories*, *The O. Henry Awards: The Prize Stories*, *The Best of the West* series, and the Pushcart Prize series. Twice a winner of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, he has published essays and reviews in *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Miami Herald*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and *The Los Angeles Times Book Review*. He began his career at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He has been a visiting professor at Washington University in St. Louis, Rice University, the University of Michigan, and Colorado College. He is Arts & Humanities Distinguished Professor in English, Emeritus, at The Ohio State University.

### **Norbert Blei/August Derleth Nonfiction Book Award**

#### **Judge: Scott Korb**

Scott Korb is the author and editor of several books, including *Life in Year One: What the World Was Like in First-Century Palestine* (Riverhead, 2010), *Light Without Fire: The Making of America's First Muslim College* (Beacon, 2013), and *Gesturing Toward Reality: David Foster Wallace and Philosophy* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2014). His essays and criticism have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Harper's*, *Lucky Peach*, *Lapham's Quarterly*, *Tin House*, and elsewhere. He teaches writing at New York University, the New School, and Pacific University's low- residency MFA program.

### **Kay W. Levin Award for Short Nonfiction**

#### **Judge: Kerry Cohen**

Kerry Cohen is the author of nine books, including the memoirs *Loose Girl: A Memoir of Promiscuity*, *Seeing Ezra: A Mother's Story of Autism*, *Unconditional Love*, and the *Meaning of Normal*, which was an Oregon Book Award Finalist, and the forthcoming *Girl Trouble*. Four of her books have been Oregon Book Award finalists, and her young adult novels have been YALSA picks. Her nonfiction has been featured in the *New York Times Modern Love* series, *The Washington Post Outlook*, *Brevity*, *Psychology Today*, and *Portland Monthly*. She teaches in the Red Earth low-residency MFA program and works as a psychotherapist in Portland, Oregon.

## **Tofte/Wright Children's Literature Award**

### **Judge: Jenn Crowell**

Born and raised in rural Pennsylvania, Jenn Crowell found herself the subject of international media attention (including a *New York Times* photographer documenting her high school graduation) when she signed a two-book contract with Putnam in the spring of 1996, a few weeks shy of her eighteenth birthday. Her first novel, *Necessary Madness*, was released to wide critical acclaim the following year, with publicity tours of the US, UK, Italy, and Australia. Following her college graduation, Crowell published *Letting the Body Lead* in 2002. She then ventured into screenwriting, joining a select group of young independent filmmakers as a 2003 IFP Market Emerging Narrative nominee (for her screenplay adaptation of *Necessary Madness*) and a 2004 Berlin Film Festival Talent Campus Fellow. Jenn earned her MFA in 2011, fifteen years after signing that first contract. She now lives near Portland, Oregon. Her latest novel is *Etched On Me* (Washington Square Press, 2014).

## **Zona Gale Award for Short Fiction**

### **Judge: David James Poissant**

David James Poissant is the author of *The Heaven of Animals: Stories*, longlisted for the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize, winner of the GLCA New Writers Award and a Florida Book Award, and a finalist for the L.A. Times Book Prize. Poissant's stories and essays have appeared in *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Glimmer Train*, *The New York Times*, *One Story*, *Playboy*, *Ploughshares*, and elsewhere.