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Finalists Announced for Connecticut Book Awards

The 2005 Connecticut Book Awards, the Connecticut Center for the Book's tribute to the state's literary notables and illustrious illustrators and designers, will be held Sunday, December 4 in the atrium of Hartford's City Hall, 550 Main Street from 2:00-3:30 p.m. A reception and book signing will follow from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

In addition to the Lifetime Achievement for Service to the Literary Community Award, the Connecticut Book Awards will present awards in seven categories: biography or memoir, children's book author, children's book illustrator, design, fiction, nonfiction and poetry.

Richard Sugarman, founding president of The Connecticut Forum, will be master of ceremonies for the program. Katharine Weber, author of *The Little Women*, *The Music Lesson*, and *Objects in Mirror Are Closer than They Appear*, will be the keynote speaker. Finalists' books will be sold on site and most authors will be available for book signings after the award program.

"We've watched the number of titles nominated increase from 102 to 162 since we began this program four years ago and we look forward to even more nominees next year," said Kat Lyons, coordinator of the Connecticut Center for the Book. "Once again, we have a great cross section of Connecticut's vibrant community of writers, illustrators, and book designers."

For ticket information, call (860) 695-6320. The Connecticut Center for the Book is a program of the Hartford Public Library and an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

2005 Connecticut Book Award Finalists

Biography or Memoir

Sam Pickering: *Waltzing the Magpies*
University of Michigan Press

Charles Slack: *Hetty: The Genius and Madness of America's First Female Tycoon*
HarperCollins

Children's Literature – Author

Suzanne Collins: *Gregor and the Prophecy of Bane*
Scholastic

Leslie Connor: *Miss Bridie Chose a Shovel*
Houghton Mifflin

Marilyn Nelson: *Fortune's Bones: The Manumission Requiem*
Front Street

Karen Young: *Cobwebs*
HarperCollins

Children's Literature – Illustrator

Etienne Delessert: *Who Killed Cock Robin?*
The Creative Company

Lane Smith: *Science Verse*
Viking Children's Books

Bill Thomson: *Karate Hour*
Marshall Cavendish

Design

William Drenttel and Don Whelan: *Lasting Impressions: The Grolier Club Library*
Winterhouse Editions

Rita Marshall: *Who Killed Cock Robin?*
The Creative Company

Fiction

Peter Duval: *Rear View*
Houghton Mifflin

Nicholas Rinaldi: *Between Two Rivers*
HarperCollins

Philip Roth: *The Plot Against America*
Houghton Mifflin

Kate Walbert: *Our Kind*
Scribner

Michael White: *The Garden of Martyrs*
St. Martin's Press

Nonfiction

George Black: *The Trout Pool Paradox: The American Lives of Three Rivers*
Houghton Mifflin

David K. Leff: *The Last Undiscovered Place*
University of Virginia Press

Robert A. Richter: *Eugene O'Neill and "Dat Ole Davil Sea": Maritime Influences in the Life and Works of Eugene O'Neill*
Mystic Seaport

James Gustave Speth: *Red Sky at Morning: America and the Crisis of the Global Environment*
Yale University Press

Mark S. Weiner: *Black Trials: Citizenship from the Beginning of Slavery to the End of Caste*
Knopf

Poetry

Sophie Cabot Black: *The Descent*
Graywolf Press

Spencer Reece: *The Clerk's Tale*
Houghton Mifflin

Ravi Shankar: *Instrumentality*
Cherry Grove Collections

Edwina Trentham: *Stumbling into the Light*
Antrim House