

Hartford Public Library
500 Main St.
Hartford, CT 06103-3075



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CONTACT: Kat Lyons
Coordinator, Connecticut Center for the Book
(860) 695-6320
klyons@hplct.org

Winners Announced for 2007 Connecticut Book Awards

Morton Schindel Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Winners of the sixth annual Connecticut Book Awards were announced at a ceremony in the atrium of Hartford Public Library on Sunday, September 23.

An enthusiastic audience paid tribute to the state's authors, illustrators, and book designers in an award ceremony presented by the Connecticut Center for the Book, a program of the Hartford Public Library and an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

The Awards, an annual event for the Connecticut Center for the Book, were made after 40 judges distinguished in the fields of writing, librarianship, book arts, academe, journalism and publishing considered nominations for work published in 2006. The winners, current or former state residents or authors whose work had a Connecticut setting, were chosen in six categories as well as for a Lifetime Achievement award.

The 2007 Connecticut Book Award winners are:

Biography: *A Century in Captivity: The Life and Trials of Prince Mortimer, a*

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Connecticut Slave, written by Denis R. Caron (University of New Hampshire Press/published by University Press of New England)

Children's Author: *John, Paul, George and Ben*, written by Lane Smith (Hyperion Books for Children)

Children's Illustrator: *Adèle and Simon*, illustrated and written by Barbara McClintock (Frances Foster Books at Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

Design: *Rossiter: Country Houses of Washington, Connecticut*, designed by Wendell Minor (Gunn Memorial Library, Inc.)

Fiction: *Triangle*, written by Katharine Weber (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

Nonfiction: *Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World*, written by David Brion Davis (Oxford University Press)

Lifetime Achievement in Service to the Literary Community: Morton Schindel, founder of Weston Woods Studios and Weston Woods Institute

Guests were welcomed by Louise Blalock, chief librarian of Hartford Public Library, and by Susan B. Aller, Connecticut Center for the Book Advisory Council chairperson. Richard Sugarman, founding president of The Connecticut Forum, was the master of ceremonies.

The keynote speaker was Roya Hakakian, winner of a Connecticut Book Award in 2006 for her memoir, *Journey from the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran*. Describing how she wished to portray her childhood, Hakakian said, “through memories and stories, I was to reveal the aspects of a life and a culture that I knew were obscured from the reporters’ cameras and frequent-flying anchor folks. This is who I would be as a writer and this is how I decided I deserved to lay claim to that infinitely crowded space we call American book publishing.”

In presenting the Lifetime Achievement Award to Morton Schindel, founder of Weston

Woods Studios and Weston Woods Institute, former Connecticut Center for the Book Advisory Council Chairwoman Billie M. Levy said that the Center, “is delighted to recognize this true innovator and unique contributor to the world of children’s literature with its Connecticut Book Award for Lifetime Achievement. Thank you for all of us, as well as our children and grandchildren, Mort.”

Janet Owens of Millrace Bookshop in Farmington was the bookseller: fourteen 2007 finalists and winners were present to sign their books during the reception following the program.

The 2007 Connecticut Book Awards ceremony is available in streaming video at www.hplct.org/media/default.html.

The mission of the Connecticut Center for the Book is to celebrate books, writers, and readers who engender and sustain the life of the imagination and to highlight authors, illustrators, printers, and the literary heritage of the State of Connecticut. The Connecticut Center for the Book is an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. For more information about this or other Connecticut Center for the Book programs call (860) 695-6320 or email klyons@hplct.org.

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PHOTO CAPTION

(left to right) Richard Sugarman, Roya Hakakian, Jean Chapin (accepting for Wendell Minor), Lane Smith, Denis R. Caron, Katharine Weber, David Brion Davis, Barbara McClintock, Morton Schindel, Louise Blalock