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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Finalists Announced for Connecticut Book Awards**

### *State's Best Authors, Illustrators, and Book Designers*

The 2006 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 3 in the atrium of Hartford's City Hall, 550 Main Street from 2:00-3:30 p.m. A reception and book signings will follow from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

The Connecticut Book Awards, presented annually by the Connecticut Center for the Book, a program of Hartford Public Library, recognize and honor authors who represent the best writing, illustration, and design in, or about, our state in the previous calendar year.

In addition to the Lifetime Achievement for Service to the Literary Community Award to be presented to former State Poet Laureate Marilyn Nelson, awards will be presented 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

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ceremonies for the program. Sam Pickering, author of twenty books, and a master of the personal essay, will be the keynote speaker. Finalists' books will be sold on site and authors will be available for book signings after the award program. Tickets for the event are \$40. per person; for purchase information call 860.695.6320 or email [klyons@hplct.org](mailto:klyons@hplct.org) .

“This is our fifth year of producing the Connecticut Book Awards,” 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.”

The Connecticut Book Awards are presented with support from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism and from private donations. The Connecticut Center for the Book is a program of the Hartford Public Library. Please call 860-695-6320 for information about other programs of the Connecticut Center for the Book at Hartford Public Library

## **2006 Connecticut Book Award Finalists**

### **Biography/Memoir**

*Divided Minds: Twin Sisters and Their Journey through Schizophrenia*

St. Martin's Press

Carolyn S. Spiro and Pamela Spiro Wagner

*Journey from the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran*

Random

Roya Hakakian

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*Songs from the Black Chair*  
University of Nebraska Press  
Charles Barber

*Them: A Memoir of Parents*  
Penguin Group  
Francine du Plessix Gray

### **Children's Author**

*Bad Baby*  
Roaring Brook Press  
Ross MacDonald

*Basketball (Or Something Like It)*  
HarperCollins Children's Books  
Nora Raleigh Baskin

*The Journey of the One and Only Declaration of Independence*  
Philomel Books  
Judith St. George

*Shakespeare's Secret*  
Henry Holt Books for Young Readers  
Elise Broach

*10,000 Days of Thunder: A History of the Vietnam War*  
Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing  
Philip Caputo

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## **Children's Illustrator**

*Alphabet House*

Marshall Cavendish

Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

*Delivering Justice: W.W. Law and the Fight for Civil Rights*

Candlewick Press

Benny Andrews

*Seven Spunky Monkeys*

Harcourt

Lynn Munsinger

*Think Cool Thoughts*

Clarion/Houghton Mifflin

Linda Bronson

*Yum! Yuck! A Foldout Book of People Sounds*

Charlesbridge Publishing

Sue Rama

## **Design**

*The Stolen Texts of Molière: An Exhibition of Plagiarized, Pirated & Misappropriated Works from the Walter L. Pforzheimer Collection*

Yale University, Beinecke Library

Howard I. Gralla

- more -

*The Works: Anatomy of a City*  
The Penguin Press  
George Kokkinidis

## **Fiction**

*In Case We're Separated*  
HarperCollins  
Alice Mattison

*The Last Refuge*  
The Permanent Press  
Chris Knopf

*Love and Ghost Letters*  
St. Martin's Press  
Chantel Acevedo

*Primitive Heart*  
Grove Atlantic  
David Rabe

*Speak Softly, She Can Hear*  
Simon & Schuster  
Pam Lewis

## **Nonfiction**

*MacArthur's Escape: Wild Man Bulkeley and the Rescue of an American Hero*  
Zenith Press  
George W. Smith

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*Tango: The Art History of Love*

Random House

Robert Farris Thompson

*Village of the Dammed: The Fight for Open Space and the Flooding of a  
Connecticut Town*

University Press of New England

James Lomuscio

## **Poetry**

*American Sublime*

Graywolf Press

Elizabeth Alexander

*The Last Time I Saw Amelia Earhart*

Persea Books

Gabrielle Calvocoressi

*Laws of My Nature*

Carnegie Mellon University Press

Margo Schilpp

## **Lifetime Achievement**

Marilyn Nelson