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Winners Announced for 2008 Connecticut Book Awards

Suzy Staubach Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Winners of the seventh annual Connecticut Book Awards were announced at a ceremony in the atrium of Hartford Public Library on Sunday, September 21.

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 35 judges, distinguished in the fields of writing, librarianship, book arts, academe, journalism and publishing, considered nominations for work published in 2007. 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 2008 Connecticut Book Award winners are:

Biography or Memoir: *I'll Fly Away*, edited by Wally Lamb (HarperCollins)

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Children’s Author: *Miss Crandall’s School for Young Ladies and Little Misses of Color*, by Elizabeth Alexander and Marilyn Nelson (Wordsong/Boyd’s Mills Press)

Children’s Illustrator: *Sitting Bull Remembers*, illustrated by Wendell Minor (HarperCollins)

Design: *Drawn to Enchant: Original Children’s Book Art in the Betsy Beinecke Shirley Collection*, designed by Howard Gralla (Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University)

Fiction: *Exit Ghost*, written by Philip Roth (Houghton Mifflin)

Nonfiction: *A Slave No More: Two Men Who Escaped to Freedom, Including Their Own Narratives of Emancipation*, written by David W. Blight (Harcourt, Inc.)

Poetry: *One Body*, written by Margaret Gibson (Louisiana State University Press)

Lifetime Achievement in Service to the Literary Community: Suzanne “Suzy” Staubach

Guests were welcomed by Louise Blalock, chief librarian of Hartford Public Library; John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress; 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. Colin McEnroe—afternoon drive-time talk show host for WTIC-AM, *Hartford Courant* op-ed columnist, author, playwright, and social commentator— was the keynote speaker. His most recent book, *My Father’s Footprints*, won the 2004 Connecticut Book Award for Memoir.

The 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Suzanne “Suzy” Staubach, General Books Division Manager at the UConn Co-op, the member-owned, independent bookstore serving the University of Connecticut and its surrounding communities. In presenting the award, prolific author and UConn professor Sam Pickering cited, among many other accomplishments, her board work for booksellers’ professional organizations at the national and regional levels; Staubach has been a bookseller for almost thirty years. In her acceptance remarks, Staubach proposed, “Think about it: if each of us

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told three people about each book that we read, then those people would want to read the books too. And children would hear us talking about books and they'd think reading is cool and want to read more. And then they'd start talking to other kids and, well, you get the picture."

The Connecticut Book Awards are presented with support from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism. The 2008, 2007, and 2006 Awards ceremonies can be viewed at www.hplct.org/media/bookawards.shtml.

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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