

50 OVER 50: CELEBRATING A DECADE OF DEBUT EXCELLENCE

NOV/DEC 2025
PW.ORG

Poets & Writers

Donika Kelly

The Natural Order of Things

Indie Markets for Your Work

40 Exceptional Journals and Presses
for Poetry, Fiction, Nonfiction, and More

Writing in the Age of AI

The Case for Collective Resistance

Elevate Your Book Event

Plan a Gathering With Purpose

Long Live the Longer

Short Story

Deeper Characters, Higher Stakes
Without a Novel's Commitment

AI and Used Books

Literary Sizzle in Dallas

Writing Prompts

Contest Deadlines



Recent Winners

Action, Spectacle

PROSE & POETRY CHAPBOOK CONTEST

Bruce Bond of Denton, Texas, and **E.J. McAdams** of New York City won the 2025 Action, Spectacle Prose & Poetry Chapbook Contest for the poetry chapbooks *Incursions of Light* and *Somehow*, respectively. They each received \$1,000, publication by *Action, Spectacle*, and 25 author copies. The annual award is given for a chapbook of poetry, prose, or hybrid-genre work. (SEE DEADLINES.)

Action, Spectacle, Prose & Poetry Chapbook Contest, 831 Mulberry Street, Louisville, KY 40217. (502) 609-2705. Adam Day, Publisher. actionspectacle23@gmail.com action-spectacle.com

Asheville Poetry Review

WILLIAM MATTHEWS POETRY PRIZE

Emily W. Pease of Williamsburg, Virginia, won the 2025 William Matthews Poetry Prize for "Lone Pony on the Last Farm in the City." She received \$1,000, and her poem will be published in Volume 32, Issue 34 of *Asheville Poetry Review*. She also received an invitation to give a reading at Malaprop's Bookstore in Asheville, North Carolina. Nickole Brown judged. The annual award is given for a single poem. (SEE DEADLINES.)

Asheville Poetry Review, William Matthews Poetry Prize, P.O. Box 7086, Asheville, NC 28802. Keith Flynn, Managing Editor. kflynny62@hotmail.com ashevillepoetryreview.com

Atlanta Writers Club

TOWNSEND PRIZE FOR FICTION

Denene Millner of Atlanta won the 2025 Townsend Prize for Fiction for her novel *One Blood* (Forge Books). She received \$2,000. Christina Bieber Lake, Erich Nunn, and Harry Stecopoulos judged. The biennial award is given for a novel, a novella, or a short story collection written and published in the previous two years by a current or past resident of the state of Georgia (if the author is a past resident, they must have lived in Georgia at the time their book

was written and published). The next deadline is November 30, 2026.

Atlanta Writers Club, Townsend Prize for Fiction, 8080 Jett Ferry Road, Atlanta, GA 30350. (404) 229-3060. Clayton Ramsey, Officer Emeritus and Townsend Prize Selection Chair. clay@atlantawritersclub.org atlantawritersclub.org/writer-resources/awc-townsend-prize-for-fiction

Baton Rouge Area Foundation

ERNEST J. GAINES AWARD

FOR LITERARY EXCELLENCE

Essie Chambers of New York City won the 2025 Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence for her novel, *Swift River* (Simon & Schuster). She received \$15,000 and was honored at an awards ceremony in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in October. Anthony Grooms, Edward P. Jones, Opal J. Moore, Francine Prose, and Patricia Towers judged. The annual award is given to an emerging African American writer for a book of fiction published in the previous year. The next deadline is October 31, 2026.

Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence, 100 North Street, Suite 900, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. (225) 387-6126. Travis Hutchins, Director of Donor Services. gainesaward@braf.org ernestjgainesaward.org

Bellingham Review

LITERARY AWARDS

Lana Reeves of Nashville won the 2025 Parallel Award for Poetry for "How to Love a Sinking Island." Gabrielle Bates judged. **Rema Ghassan Shbaita** of Riverside, California, won the Tobias Wolff Award for Fiction for "Stones So Upset, They Turned Themselves Over." Laura Chow Reeve judged. **Linda Button** of Brookline, Massachusetts, won the Annie Dillard Award for Creative Nonfiction for "The Wada Test." Lilly Dancyger judged. They each received \$1,000, and their winning works will be published in the Fall/Winter 2026 issue of *Bellingham Review*. The annual awards are given for a poem, a short story, and



DON MEE CHOI

Community of Literary Magazines & Presses
Firecracker Award in Poetry

MUBANGA KALIMAMUKWENTO

Community of Literary Magazines & Presses
Firecracker Award in Fiction

JAYDRA JOHNSON

Community of Literary Magazines & Presses
Firecracker Award in Creative Nonfiction

workshops on editing, public performance, and building a professional platform. The annual awards are given to emerging poets, fiction writers, and creative nonfiction writers. The next deadline is January 31, 2026.

PEN America, Emerging Voices Fellowship, 120 Broadway, 26th Floor North, New York, NY 10271. ev@pen.org pen.org/emerging-voices-fellowship

PEN/Faulkner Foundation

PEN/BERNARD AND ANN MALAMUD AWARD

David Means of Nyack, New York, won the 2025 PEN/Bernard and Ann Malamud Award for Excellence in the Short Story. Means, whose most recent story collection is *Two Nurses, Smoking* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2022), received \$5,000 and will be honored at a ceremony in partnership with American University in Washington, D.C., in December. The annual award "recognizes writers who have demonstrated exceptional achievement in the short story form." There is no application process.

PEN/Faulkner Foundation, 6218 Georgia Avenue NW, Unit #1062, Washington, D.C. 20011. Sarah Silberman, Awards

and Literary Programs Director. sarah@penfaulkner.org penfaulkner.org

Plentitudes

PLENTITUDES PRIZES IN FICTION, NONFICTION, POETRY, AND FLASH

Em Palughi of Nashville won the 2025 Plentitudes Prize in poetry for "Zugunruhe." Chidima Anekwe of New York City won in fiction for "Chioma at the Store." Josina Manu Maltzman of Minneapolis won in nonfiction for "Protective Presence in the West Bank." Stacey Balkun of New Orleans won in flash for "Open Up." The winners each received \$1,000 and publication in the *Plentitudes*. Dana Isokawa judged in poetry, Annell López judged in fiction, Melody Nixon judged in nonfiction, and Celine Aenlle-Rocha judged in flash. The annual awards are given for a single poem, a short story, an essay, and a work of flash fiction or nonfiction. (SEE DEADLINES.)

Plentitudes, Plentitudes Prizes in Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, and Flash, 27 West 94th Street, New York, NY 10025. Wally Suphap, Editor in Chief.

editors@theplentitudes.com theplentitudes.com

Poetry Foundation

RUTH LILLY AND DOROTHY SARGENT ROSENBERG POETRY FELLOWSHIPS

Five poets each received a \$27,000 Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation. The 2025 fellows are Jada Renée Allen of Phoenix; DeeSoul Carson of New York City; Andres Cordoba of Providence; Maryhilda Obasiota Ibe of Madison, Wisconsin; and Aris Kian of Houston. The applications were reviewed by a combination of external readers and judges. The annual awards are given to poets between the ages of 21 and 31 to support their continued study and practice of writing poetry. The next deadline is March 2, 2026.

Poetry Foundation, Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowships, 61 West Superior Street, Chicago, IL 60654.

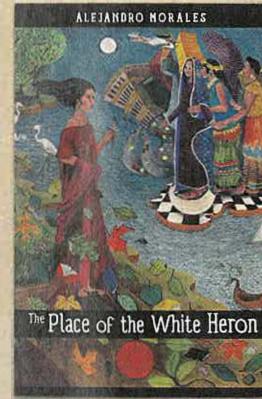
grants@poetryfoundation.org poetryfoundation.org/awards/prizes-fellowship



Exercising Haunts

poems by Rob Vance

robertvance.com



AVAILABLE NOW

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The Place of the White Heron

By Alejandro Morales

A Rudolfo Anaya Honorable Mention

"Vital for anyone interested in the intersections of identity, culture, and the political realities shaping our world today."

Readers who enjoy the work of Gloria Anzaldua and Laurie Ann Guerrero will find Morales's work equally engaging and thought-provoking... a novel that asks difficult questions and leaves a lasting impression."

--Carol Thompson, Readers' Favorite